

No 61,726

THE TIMES
Monday

Cover up
The 30-year rule releases the records for 1953 - and a Churchill cover-up is revealed



Round Up
The Times anniversaries for 1984

Stepping up
First of a series on South Africa and its neighbours as the fighting steps up in Angola

Highland...
Searching for clan roots among the heather

Round up of the New Year weekend sport

Shultz and Gromyko will meet

Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, is to hold talks with Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, in Stockholm on January 18. They will be in Stockholm for the opening of the 35-nation conference on European security and confidence-building measures.

Rig talks offer

Britoil's chairman said he is willing to start talks on the cancelled oil rig order which could close British Shipbuilders' Scott Lithgow yard on the Lower Clyde

CBI warning

Central and local government costs imposed on industry must be reduced to sustain the recovery through 1984, Sir Terence Beckett, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, said

WPC's funeral

The funeral of WPC Jane Arbuthnot, one of the six victims of the Harrods bomb, took place at St Luke's Church near Chelsea police station

Mortgage boost

Four of the top five building societies expect to increase their mortgage lending by at least 20 per cent next year.

Galtieri in dock

Former President Galtieri of Argentina and his fellow junta members who launched the Falklands invasion have been indicted for murder and torture.

On its own

Ninety-five years of British protection over Brunei ends at midnight tonight as the tiny enclave on Borneo's north coast assumes full independence

Wider protest

Greenham Common peace women said they will extend their protest to other military bases, nuclear power plants and research stations, in the new year

Leader page 11

Letters: On Eagle Star, from Mr R C Howroyd; legal education, from his Hon Judge Head; coinage, from Mr A B Purbrick, and others

Leading article: The language of 1984

Features, page 10

Neil Kinnock sees the shadow of the Thought Police; Gavin Stamp on architects and planning controls; Julie Davidson's Scottish hogmanay

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Mr Maurice Bond, Miss Doris Chambers

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Thatcher promises a year of hope and liberty

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, in a buoyant new year message to the Conservative Party yesterday, said that George Orwell was wrong and she promised that 1984 would be a year of hope and liberty.

In a statement reflecting considerable optimism about the future and clearly designed to stamp on suggestions that the Government has become accident-prone since its landslide general election victory, the Prime Minister declared: "Far from losing our way, we are just getting into our stride."

And she pledged that the Government's achievements since 1979 were "only the beginning" of what she called the revival of Britain under the Conservatives.

Mrs Thatcher's upbeat tone contrasted sharply with that of Mr Neil Kinnock, who in his first new year message to the Labour Party as leader, lamented the failure of the Government to arrest economic decline and the weakening of the health and welfare services, and accused the Government of a lack of will to face up to Britain's difficulties.

Mr Kinnock called on the

voters to use the local elections next May and the European elections the following month to combat the Government.

In her message Mrs Thatcher showed her sensitivity to charges that had publicly on several issues since the election, ranging from the choice of the Commons Speaker, the Parkinson affair, the deterioration in relations with the United States over Grenada and Lebanon and the dispute over energy prices are evidence that the Government is faltering.

She said that the Government had embarked on its second term "with the same enthusiasm and determination" with which it came to office. "Today, no less than when we first came into office, we believe what we say, we say what we believe, and have the courage to see it through."

Mrs Thatcher said that the prospect for jobs was becoming brighter and restated the Government's commitment to the goals it set itself in 1979 - defence of the realm, support for the rule of Law, greater freedom for the individual, protection for the vulnerable, honest money and prudent

finance, and an efficient and competitive economy.

Mr Kinnock said it was a tragedy that Britain could not look forward to firm prospects of economic recovery and social advance.

There was no will in the Government, he said, it never listened to the managers who wanted to invest and sell their companies out of slump; it could not put itself in the place of a single parent with a young family to bring up.

Mr Eric Heffer, chairman of the Labour Party, said of Mrs Thatcher's message: "She is uttering the very opposite of the truth. Under this Conservative Government liberties which have been there for generations are being taken away from local authorities."

"And the legislation the Government has lined up means the destruction of yet more of our liberties. This Government has authoritarian tendencies and if it continues in this direction we shall see our freedoms slowly but surely being destroyed."

Message texts, page 5
Neil Kinnock, page 10
Leading article, page 11

Leadership rift on overtime pit ban

By Our Labour Reporter

The solidarity of miners' leaders over the present overtime ban was breached yesterday when a member of the National Union of Mineworkers' executive called for a pithead ballot over the action.

Mr Roy Otley, head of the pit craftsmen's power group, has written to Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the union, urging him to allow a national vote to prevent civil war in the NUM.

Mr Otley's call came after the 40-strong North Staffordshire miners' branch voted to defy the union's overtime ban. The branch said it would take 24-hour strike action if pickets prevented members doing their normal work from January 7.

Mr Otley, a respected right-winger, said: "I have canvassed the opinion of other power group members who are not defying the ban, and there is a large number in favour of a ballot."

The National Coal Board has said that the eight-week-old overtime ban, which was ordered by a national delegates' meeting, lost miners more than £25m in wages by Christmas; the equivalent of about £164 for every pitman. Those figures are strongly disputed by Mr Scargill.

Mr Stephen Higginson, the North Staffordshire miners' branch secretary, said he realized that his members' threatened strike would prevent other miners working and that it would be aimed at his own union. "But that is how strongly we feel."

Shamir battles for Cabinet unity in spending cuts crisis

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Amid the worst economic crisis experienced in Israel, Mr Yitbak Shamir's coalition Cabinet yesterday met in a six-hour emergency session to discuss a bitterly-contested austerity package which threatens to destroy its slender majority in the 120-seat Parliament.

The meeting took place against a background of unprecedented labour unrest caused by spending cuts, which have already been introduced in the public sector. Many sections of the civil service have been subjected to severe disruptions and workers have taken to the streets shouting the slogan "bread and work" reminiscent of Israel in the 1930s.

Among the proposals made by Mr Yigal Cohen-Orgad, the new Finance Minister, are a virtual 12-month freeze on the construction of new Jewish settlements, restrictions on free education, and an across the board cut of £690m.

Even as ministers were gathered for what was only the first of a grim number of meetings designed to reach an acceptable solution, more grim economic statistics were being released. These showed that Israel's balance of payment deficit has jumped to a record £3,517m, while the gross national product during 1983 stagnated, rising by less than 1 per cent.

The severity of the economic situation has been increased by an inflation rate of about 200 per cent and by spiralling foreign debts.

Air officers see their families at last



Air Lieutenant Weir, youngest of the released trio, being greeted at Heathrow by his sister Helen



Wing Commander Cox with his wife Sandy, and his daughter, Taryn, whom he saw for the first time yesterday



Air Lieutenant Lloyd, who described his torture in jail, being welcomed by his wife, Celia, and daughter, Tina

Lieutenant tells of nightmare months

By Rupert Morris

One of the three Zimbabwe Air Force officers who flew to Britain yesterday after 17 months in jail, gave a graphic account of the torture he had suffered, and its effect on him.

Air Lieutenant Barrington Lloyd, aged 32, who was welcomed at Heathrow by his wife and 18-month-old daughter - whom he hardly knew, having been imprisoned soon after she was born - shook as he recalled his ordeal.

"I suffered nightmares for a good five months," he said, "but I'm almost over it now."

He said he was tortured two weeks after being rearrested after his acquittal on charges of sabotage at the Zimbabwe Air Force base at Thornhill.

"I was connected to an electrical generator by electrodes placed all over my body, including the genitals. I suffered convulsions. The torture lasted about two and a half hours."

Lieutenant Lloyd said he did not blame the Zimbabwe Government for his torture, but believed it to be the result of someone being "over-enthusiastic". He was disappointed, however, that there had been no official expression of disapproval.

Life peerages for Mulley and Bottomley

By Staff Reporters

Two former Labour Cabinet ministers who failed to get on Mr Michael Foot's final list of recommendations for the dissolution honours list last July are made life peers in the new year awards which are announced today.

Mr Frederick Mulley, Secretary of State for Defence in the last Labour Government, a former party chairman, and a member of Labour's national executive committee for 30 years, and Mr Arthur Bottomley, Secretary of State for Commonwealth Affairs in the 1964 Labour Government and later Minister of Overseas Development, were recommended for the honours by the Prime Minister.

Both Mr Mulley, aged 65, and Mr Bottomley, aged 76, were in the former Labour leader's original proposals for some 27 Labour working peers in the dissolution honours but were taken out when Mrs Margaret Thatcher insisted that the Labour list be kept to single figures.

Two other life peerages are awarded today: Mr Alistair McAlpine, joint treasurer of the Conservative Party; and Sir Peter Henderson, the former Clerk of the Parliaments.

Alastair Burnet, presenter of Independent Television's *News at Ten* and a former editor of *The Economist* and the *Daily Express*, receives a knighthood. Among the other broadcasting awards are a CBE for Mr Aubrey Singer, managing director of BBC Television and an MBE for Chris Gittens, aged 81, who plays Walter Gable in *The Archers*, the long-running BBC Radio 4 serial.

Mr Gordon Downey, the Comptroller and Auditor General, and Mr Peter Middleton, Permanent Secretary at the Treasury, are appointed Knights Commanders of the Order of the Bath (KCBs).

Many who played a key role in Mrs Thatcher's election victory are honoured, including Mr Christopher Lawson, the

Conservative Party's marketing director, who is knighted.

Guinevere Lady Tilney, who worked for Mrs Thatcher's political office for several years in government and opposition, and became known in Whitehall as the "wardrobe mistress", advising the Prime Minister on dress style, is made a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire.

Mr Timothy Bevan, chairman of Barclays Bank, has been knighted, for his services to commerce and industry. Among the sporting awards are a knighthood for Mr Arthur Gold, chairman of the Commonwealth Games Council for England and former secretary of the British Amateur Athletic Board, an OBE for Berrie Mee, the former manager of Arsenal football club, and MBEs for Frederick Daly, who 37 years ago won the British Open Golf Championship, and Maurice Hope, the former world middleweight boxing champion.

Mr Neil Kinnock, has maintained the practice of recent Labour leaders of not making nominations for political awards.

Full list, pages 4, 5

Frederick Mulley (left) and Timothy Bevan

BAT wins Eagle Star battle with £966m bid

By Andrew Cornelius

Britain's biggest takeover battle drew to a close yesterday when West German insurer Allianz Versicherungs, decided to pull out of the bidding for Eagle Star after a record £966m competing bid came from BAT Industries.

Allianz agreed to sell its 30 per cent stake in Eagle Star, which is Britain's sixth largest insurance company, after discussions in Munich which were concluded late on Thursday. Allianz bought its shares in Eagle over two years and stands to make £163m profit on the deal.

Sir Denis Mountain, chairman of Eagle Star, was delighted with the outcome and will recommend the 700p per share offer from BAT to shareholders.

His own stake in Eagle Star has risen in value from £2.7m to £3.7m since the fiercely contested bidding for the company began two months ago.

The takeover brings together BAT, Britain's third largest cosmetics business and International Stores chains, the Eagle Star, which controls £3.5 billion of policyholders' money.

On the stockmarket, shares of Eagle Star fell from 714p to 692p on news of the deal, while BAT shares rose by 11p to close at 179p

Business news, page 15

Spy couple sentencing today

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Sentence will be passed today in the Cape Supreme Court on Commodore Dieter Gerhardt, former commander of the South African naval dockyard at Simonstown and his wife, Ruth, who were convicted of high treason on Thursday on charges of spying for the Soviet Union.

Evidence in mitigation was heard yesterday, but like the rest of the trial, proceedings were all in camera. High treason carries a maximum penalty of death by hanging, but is rarely imposed in such cases.

Gerhardt was found to have been employed by the Russians from 1964 until his arrest in January of this year and to have transmitted military secrets to them. His wife was found guilty of assisting him, mainly as a courier, from the early 1970s onwards.

The judge dismissed Gerhardt's claim to have been a double agent working for an unnamed power not hostile to South Africa and which had asked him to offer his services to the Russians to find out what their interests in South Africa were.

● LONDON: A former chief of the defence staff yesterday suggested that British naval officers who had contact with Gerhardt over the past 20 years should be vetted to check if any secrets were passed to him (John Witherow writes).

Admiral of the Fleet Lord Hill-Norton described it as a "sensible" if rather stable-door operation. I would be very

surprised if any British naval officer had given Gerhardt any sensitive information. But it is a possibility and foolish not to look into it."

The Government said yesterday that the Security Commission, Gerhardt had access to classified information while he was training here, but it would be of little value now.

Lord Hill-Norton, speaking on BBC's *World at One*, ridiculed the suggestion that Gerhardt gave the Russians information about the task force during the Falklands conflict and said South Africa had not been privy to any British military secrets for 20 years.

Leaks feared, page 7

Herr Fleischauer's last will and tele-testament

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

Through the window behind the heavens. He then relates how he has led a God-fearing life, in harmony with his surroundings.

And now the moment the relations have been waiting for: To you, Cousin Gerda in Gröbenzell, the books, the pictures, the contents of the bank box and a life assurance of over DM10,000. But for the aunt there is bitter disappointment. Because she was so tactless and insensitive as to inquire recently about whom he would leave his wealth to, she has been cut out of the will.

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Britoil chief ready for eleventh-hour talks on fate of North Sea rig

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Sir Philip Shelbourne, chairman of Britoil, has said he is still willing to have discussions on the cancellation of its oil rig order, which threatens 4,500 jobs at Scott Lithgow on the Lower Clyde.

Talks to avert strike by shipbuilders adjourned

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

Talks aimed at averting a national strike by 60,000 shipbuilding workers were adjourned yesterday until Tuesday, amid mounting pessimism that a solution could be achieved.

After a day of talks at the London offices of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) in which the unions and management met in separate discussions with Mr Dennis Boyd, chief conciliation officer, there was little sign of a breakthrough.

Representatives of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions expressed disappointment that Mr Graham Day, chairman of the state-owned British Shipbuilders, was not present at yesterday's meetings and does not plan to return from holiday in Canada in time for Tuesday's talks.

Mr Maurice Phelps, head of industrial relations at British Shipbuilders, said that management had put forward some proposals which he hoped would "assist the situation" and

He has also said, however, that if British Shipbuilders contests Britoil's right to cancel the £86m rig order in court talks would become increasingly difficult.

Sir Philip was responding to Scottish church leaders, who had asked the two sides to discuss the matter and had called for work to resume on the rig "for the sake of many

thousands of people in the west of Scotland".

Britoil cancelled the order last week. The rig was due for delivery in the spring but is estimated to be more than 500 days behind schedule, and British Shipbuilders has said it cannot afford penalty payments.

In his reply to the churches Sir Philip said: "We have been conscious throughout this year of the effect of cancellation of our order on hull 2002 and we have used every endeavour to introduce an element of realistic negotiations into this matter."

The union delegation saw Mr Boyd first and told him that management's plans to change working practices, which is at the heart of the dispute, would be introduced too quickly and some of them were impracticable.

Mr Jim Murray, chairman of the unions' shipbuilding negotiating committee, said after the meeting that the position had not improved but added: "We would certainly not be coming back on Tuesday if we did not think there was a possibility of a solution."

The union delegation saw Mr Boyd first and told him that management's plans to change working practices, which is at the heart of the dispute, would be introduced too quickly and some of them were impracticable.

Mr Boyd was told that the company's offer of a £7 a week productivity deal was not the main point at issue.

The management team told Acas officers that the new working methods, which include the sweeping away of demarcation lines and a radical increase in flexibility, were essential and needed urgently.

British Shipbuilders has yet to reply officially but a spokesman for the churches said they hoped for an early response from the chairman, Mr Graham Day.

Scott Lithgow now has only one other order on its books - for a £60m oil exploration rig BP, which is also behind schedule.

British Shipbuilders faces a £19,000-a-day penalty payment on the BP order backdated to last February, and has asked the oil company for an extension of the contract to allow the rig to be completed early in March.



Camp comforts: Greenham Common protesters keeping warm round a fire yesterday (Photograph: John Voos).

Greenham women to tackle other bases

From David Cross, Greenham Common

The peace women of Greenham Common said yesterday they would be extending their protest movement to other military bases and installations in the new year.

At a press conference at their makeshift camp outside the north gate of the Berkshire air base, Miss Rebecca Johnson said that protesters would also visit nuclear power plants and chemical and biological research stations. They would be equipped with wire-cutters to take down perimeter fences.

The women said in a statement: "In 1984 we will continue to expose the lies behind all the military bases throughout Britain and to increase our links with women's struggle for nuclear disarmament and an end to oppression, prejudice, exploitation and violence in every country on earth."

The statement said that after two and a half years at Greenham the women believed they had achieved their aim of making cruise missiles at the base "politically and militarily inoperable at this time".

The Government has said that the first 16 missiles which arrived at Greenham last month would have "initial operating capability" by tonight.

Miss Johnson said the Government had failed to show that the launchers and their missiles could be deployed beyond the confines of the base and had failed to maintain security at Greenham. Some women believed that the cruise warheads were no longer there. The lack of security had

been clearly demonstrated earlier this week when three women spent about three hours in the air traffic control tower in the base without being detected, Miss Johnson said.

During their stay in the tower the women had found classified documents outlining procedures for landing an aircraft which had been contaminated by nuclear radiation, she said.

Miss Johnson added that the Greenham women questioned the right of any government to bring radioactive material into a populated area and to keep the information secret from people whose lives would be affected.

Women from one of the other peace camps at the base announced at the press conference that they would be giving half the donations they received from well-wishers to help less privileged women throughout the world.

The Greenham women will celebrate New Year's Day by releasing into the air hundreds of balloons tied with cut-out paper women and messages of peace.

● Mrs Jacquetta Hull, aged 25, of Brook Drive, Kennington, south London, who with several other demonstrators lay down in the road in Whitehall during the Remembrance Sunday ceremony on November 13, was conditionally discharged for three months at Highgate Magistrates' Court yesterday for using insulting behaviour.

Pershlings ready, page 7

Deathbed marriage by Melville

Mr Alan Melville the broadcaster who died on Christmas Eve aged 73 married his housekeeper three days earlier, it was disclosed yesterday.

In a ceremony at his bedside in the Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton, he married Mrs Midge Embury, a widow in her sixties and his companion for 25 years.

Mr Paul Vaughan, Mr Melville's agent, said yesterday: "Alan knew he was dying and it was his deepest wish to marry Midge. The marriage gave him joy and peace."

The marriage ceremony was attended by doctors, nurses, immediate family and friends and was conducted under special licence by the hospital chaplain. Mrs Melville had previously worked for Gilbert Harding, the broadcaster, who died in 1960.

Thief returned for other shoe

A pre-Christmas shoplifter, who found he had stolen two left shoes, was arrested the next day while taking a matching right shoe.

Hughie Clarke, aged 21, of Albert Road, Aston, Birmingham, was fined £50 yesterday for two thefts from the same store. He was arrested under staff recognition from the previous day, Miss Francoise Snape, for the prosecution, told Birmingham magistrates.

Man to be freed after 26 years

Britain's second longest serving prisoner, Kenneth Barlow, aged 65, will be released on licence next week. He was jailed 26 years ago for the "perfect" murder of his wife by injecting her with insulin.

Barlow is in Leyhill open prison, near Bristol. Only John Straffen, the child killer, has been in prison longer.

Cast of 'Archers' at funeral

The funeral of Gwen Berryman, the actress who played Doris Archer for almost 30 years in the BBC radio serial *The Archers*, was attended yesterday in Torquay by members of the cast.

Shelagh Donohue, because of ill health in 1980 and died last week aged 77.

Crash landing

Mr Ian Rae, the pilot of a Cessna 310 light aircraft and his woman passenger escaped injury when it crashed at Glasgow airport last night.

Corrections

Roy Marsden, who plays Mr Chips in a new BBC television series, had his last major role in the Anglia series *Death of an Expert Witness* last night, *Accident of Spies*, as stated yesterday.

Love Songs, the television play in which Lord Glen is to appear next May, was written by Paul Aitken, not Jeffrey Archer, on whose short story, "Old Love", it is based.

Big BR pay-offs to cut staff

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

British Rail is offering attractive terms to persuade up to 9,000 staff to retire early.

The aim is to save about £90m a year on the wages bill to help to meet a £184m cut in government subsidy over the next two years announced by Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Secretary of State for Transport, before Christmas.

Staff who agree to retire early are being offered full pension from 55 instead of 60 or 62 according to status and a lump sum substantially higher than the statutory minimum.

A £150-a-week driver with 25 years' service, for example, would receive about £6,500 and full pension on leaving at 55.

British Rail's corporate plan provides for a reduction in staff from 155,000 to 142,000 by 1986 and Mr Bob Reid, the new chairman, is pledged to deliver the plan's targets. The severance scheme is part of the plan.

Most people who had been offered the new retirement deal have accepted it, a spokesman said. Most of those affected are clerical and similar staff.

Maxwell sends out redundancy notices

By Kenneth Gosling

The seven-week dispute which has prevented 800,000 copies of the *Radio Times* reaching readers in London seemed likely last night to continue indefinitely as redundancy notices were issued to print workers at Park Royal in west London.

A spokesman for the British Printing and Communications Corporation, of which Mr Robert Maxwell is the chairman, said no agreement had been reached before Christmas on the installation of two presses costing £10m.

"It has been known all along," he said, "that if we did not get agreement we would have to issue redundancy notices."

"Sogot '82, the National Graphical Association, everyone has known this and has been expecting the notices, some of which are being posted off today."

Redundancy money is being paid at twice the usual rate, four weeks for every year of service instead of two.

A *Radio Times* spokesman said Sogot '82 had complied with a High Court injunction earlier this month, to lift its blocking of the printing and



Mr Maxwell: No accord on £10m machines

distribution of the magazine. "But we are back to square one with this dispute with Mr Maxwell," he said.

BPPC maintains that the Park Royal operation cannot be made viable without the machines being installed, and says all union branches had reached agreement except one London machine shop.

The Park Royal typesetting centre, employing 160 people, is not affected.

Remand pledge honoured

With only a day to spare Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, has honoured his pledge to remove all remand prisoners from police cells before the end of the year.

The Home Office said yesterday that all such prisoners had been transferred to jails. That means that in London there are now 629 remand prisoners at Brixton, 400 at Wormwood Scrubs and 181 at Pentonville.

Mr Brittan made his promise at the Conservative Party conference in October.

The total being held in police cells was 400 a day for most of the year but fell to 63 on Wednesday until there was none remaining by last night.

The move was possible because Wormwood Scrubs admitted prisoners on holding charges for the first time this month and because more places became available at Pentonville.

Pay law still unfair, TUC says

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

Equal pay legislation, which comes into force today, will not also allow employers to claim justification for inequities because of "market forces".

The law will not observe an edict from the European Commission which urged the Government to bring the rules into line with the rest of Europe. The European Court of Justice has criticized Britain because women here could not claim equal pay for work of equal value.

Mr Len Murray, the TUC general secretary, has protested to Mr Alan Clark, Minister of State at the Department of Employment, that the legislation is inadequate.

The law will enable industrial

tribunals to hear equal value claims, but the TUC says it will also allow employers to claim justification for inequities because of "market forces".

For example, where a woman has a skill of "equal value" to a man's, an employer will be allowed to pay him more if his skill is in short supply.

"This would reinforce the segregation of women into low-paid jobs rather than end inequality," the TUC said.

Lord Denning, former Master of the Rolls, has said part of the new regulations was so complex that it was extremely difficult even for lawyers to understand. The House of Lords passed an amendment to the Bill on

December 5 by 108 votes to 104, stating that the regulations neither complied with the European Commission directive nor reflected the European Court's decision.

Mr Murray expressed concern to Mr Clark that potential applicants in tribunal cases would be deterred because cost could be awarded against them.

Mr Murray expressed "a note of caution" over either party's ability to call on expert witnesses. Employers would have greater resources and would therefore be more able to call on such evidence.

The TUC claims tribunal procedures will be made "more protracted and cumbersome".

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SDP upset by Owen coalition warning

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Dr David Owen's new year message to the Social Democrats warning them to prepare to work in a coalition government has upset members of his party who want to see it working in closer harmony with the Liberals.

Dr Owen's statement is seen by many in the party as declaring his readiness in certain circumstances to come to an electoral arrangement with the Labour Party after the next election, if the Conservatives were to win the highest number of seats but fail to secure an outright majority.

Mr Neville Sandelson, who joined the SDP from Labour during the last Parliament but lost his seat at the election, said yesterday that "true Social Democrats" did not and would not contemplate a coalition with socialists merely to gain

office and a tiny foothold in the corridors of power. No amount of phoney, cosmetics could conceal the true nature of Labour's ideology and ultimate aims.

"An electoral arrangement of that nature to defeat the present government would be a disaster for Britain and a betrayal of fundamental democratic principles. A Labour-led coalition government would be a sham."

Mr Sandelson said that in 1984 either the SDP and Liberals would close ranks or they would fall totally apart. Together they were a potential government "but divided they amount to an old maid's tea party".

He said that he had no doubt that many Social Democrats would share his misgivings as to the precise meanings of Dr Owen's message.

Police check guns in hunt for double killer

The police have interviewed about 30 men and checked several shotguns in the hunt for the killer of a couple shot dead near Manacpan on the Lizard peninsula in Cornwall.

Miss Rosalind Richards, aged 18, a part-time barmaid, and Mr Rodney Pellow, a divorced farmer aged 32 who lived in Coverack, near by, were each shot twice on Tuesday in her caravan.

Det Supt Geoff Warren, head of Cornwall CID, said: "Rosalind had numerous boyfriends. Inquiries into Miss Richards's social life have uncovered reports of late-night parties and marital infidelity. More than 1,100 people in the area have shotgun licences.

Cell suicide despite warning to jail

A remand prisoner hanged himself with a sheet in his cell despite a police warning to prison authorities that he was suicidal, an inquest at Gloucester was told yesterday. (Our Gloucester correspondent writes)

Detective Sergeant Michael Biddell said: "When he went to prison I completed a form to the authorities at the jail stating that he was mentally unstable, and in my view he would commit suicide."

Three days after Mr Peter Fussell's admission to hospital wing at Gloucester prison, he was found hanging by a sheet tied to the window bars. Mr Fussell, aged 45, of The Circle, Uplands, Stroud, Gloucestershire, was on remand

accused of attacking Mr Godfrey Askew, his former employer at Stroud & District Council.

He was alleged to have hit Mr Askew on the head with a hammer, causing severe head injuries.

Det Sergeant Biddell said Mr Fussell told him: "Askew was responsible for me getting the sack from the council."

Prison Officer William Cook, said he had not been told to keep any special watch on Mr Fussell.

The jury returned a verdict of suicide. After the hearing, Mr William McEvoy, governor of Gloucester prison, said an internal inquiry had been held and a report sent to the Home Office.

Helicopter foils cash raid

From Our Correspondent Belfast

A military helicopter crew defied shots from the ground as they foiled an armed robbery on the Irish border yesterday. The two-man crew was unhurt and the Westland Gazelle helicopter undamaged.

It was escorting a Securicor armoured van as it carried money from Newry to Crossmaglen, the centre of the IRA dominated, South Armagh border zone of Northern Ireland.

Two miles from Crossmaglen, at Creggan Bridge, the helicopter crew saw the armoured van being rammed by a second vehicle and forced to halt.

As the pilot of the Gazelle then moved in for a closer look, radioing for army and RUC reinforcements as he did so, the raiders opened fire with rifles, without effect.

They abandoned their attempt to force the two Securicor guards to open the armoured van, and sped off in their own vehicle for the border, about four miles away.

Hebden holds chess lead

From Harry Golombek, Chess Correspondent Hastings

With a 20-move draw in round three against the Hungarian grandmaster, Csor, Mark Hebden, the Leicester player, maintained his lead with the excellent score of 2½ out of 3 in the Ace grandmaster tournament in Hastings.

Nigel Short won in good style against Sax, who always looked to be in trouble and resigned on the 37th move.

The Swedish grandmaster Karlsson won in good combative style against the Romanian grandmaster Suba, and the game between Ivanov and Alburt was adjourned.

Results in round three: Ivanov adjourned against Alburt, QP Benoni defence 42 moves; Martin ½, Flancnik ½, Sicilian defence 22; Karlsson 1, Suba 0, English opening, 41; Mestel ½, Speelman ½, English opening 22; Short 1, Sax 0, Sicilian defence 37; Gurevich ½, Kudrin ½, Sicilian defence 14; Csor ½, Hebden ½, English opening 20.

Adjourned games results, round two: Flancnik ½, Ivanov ½; Sax 0, Mestel 1.

Remand for arms charge student

An Oxford University student was remanded in custody until January 6 at Marylebone Magistrates' Court yesterday charged with having a revolver and ammunition without fire-arms certificates and unlawfully possessing explosives.

Daniel Emile Singleton, aged 28, studying at St Catherine's College, Oxford, was arrested by anti-terrorist squad police at his home in Princess Crescent, Finsbury Park, on Wednesday.

Overseas selling prices: Australia \$28; Belgium 8 fr 50; Canada \$28; Denmark 100 kr 150; France 800 franc; Germany 100 DM; Greece 100 dr; Hong Kong \$28; India 100 rupee; Italy 100 lire; Japan 100 yen; Korea 100 won; Luxembourg 100 franc; Netherlands 100 guilder; New Zealand \$28; Norway 100 kr; Portugal 100 escudo; Singapore 100 dollar; Spain 100 peseta; Sweden 100 krona; Switzerland 100 franc; Taiwan 100 dollar; Thailand 100 baht; United Kingdom £1; USA \$28; Yugoslavia 100 dinar.

Today's Taste of Utopia December 27th

Today's global taste of utopia brings the flavour of rising optimism and positivity in the peoples and governments of the diverse cultures and political systems of the world, including the U.S.A., the Soviet Union, India, China, Japan, Bangladesh, and East and West Germany.

● "We do not expect utopia, but I believe we are on the verge of new progress towards national reconciliation and withdrawal of foreign forces," said President Reagan today speaking of the situation in Lebanon.

● Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Lebanon cooperate on proposal for peace in Lebanon.

● "Time upholds U.S. President Reagan and Soviet Andropov together as 'Men of the Year'."

● East Germany and Peoples' Republic of China sign agreement on scientific cooperation.

● East Germany dismantles automatic shooting devices along 48 kilometres of West German border.

● Japanese Prime Minister Nakasone pledges strong ties with U.S.A.

● South Korea welcomes new Japanese Cabinet.

● Industrial trade tariffs between European Economic Community and European Trade Association to disappear, making European free trade area the world's largest single market.

● "People have been working with greater desire. In general a change for the better in the national economy has begun to show - the most important thing now is not to lose the tempo and the generally positive intent to get things going," said Soviet Premier Andropov.

● Indian economy shows signs of improvement.

● Monsoon likely to boost food output in Tamil Nadu, India.

● Republic of Ireland's politicians unite in most comprehensive initiative for peace in Ulster since independence.

● Voting takes place in Bangladesh for the first time in seven years, laying the foundation for a return to democracy.

● President Marcos of the Philippines pardons 280 prisoners.

Tomorrow's taste of utopia tomorrow...

Maharishi International University, Fairfield, Iowa 52556, USA

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Nurse suspended after inquiry into night management at hospital

By Michael Horsnell

The senior night nursing officer at a hospital for the mentally handicapped, where a union official committed suicide this year, has been suspended after a six-month inquiry into night nursing management there.

Mr Amadeo Dell'Erario, aged 48, was relieved of his duties at the 900-patient Harrogate Hospital near Raddlet, Hertfordshire, when the inquiry team reported a serious deficiency in the quality of management.

The report, endorsed by the North-West Hertfordshire Health Authority which ordered it, followed pressure from the health service union, Cosh for an investigation into what happens at night at the hospital.

A night nurse, Mr Tony Joyce, aged 36, who was the hospital's Cosh branch secretary was found dead last February with his throat slashed outside a ward entrance. An electric carving knife was discovered near by.

An inquest decided Mr Joyce had taken his own life. In mid-December 1982 he had begun to take statements from night staff concerning about management practices at

the hospital at night. Then on New Year's Eve he was involved in an alleged skirmish with a senior member of the night nursing staff. As a result he faced a disciplinary hearing.

Mr Neil Goodwin, the health authority's deputy district administrator, said yesterday: "It is alleged that Mr Joyce was harassed for taking statements from staff over their dissatisfaction with the management."

"His tragic suicide heightened the antagonism of staff to management but it was one incident in a sequence of events which led the authority to hold an inquiry."

The report, by a four-man health authority team, said: "Staff we interviewed, including sisters, were of the opinion that there was an undue degree of familiarity in the relationships of the male nurse managers and certain female staff."

Mr Dell'Erario, an Italian, has been suspended on full pay pending further investigations by Mr Frank Powell, district

nursing officer, who will decide whether further disciplinary action is required.

Mr Mike Hills, Cosh branch secretary at Harrogate, wants his dismissal.

He said: "I would be negligent in my responsibilities to the union if I did not point out that I had on many occasions given warnings to nursing officers senior to Mr Dell'Erario of what was happening on nights."

The inquiry team, which decided some of the criticisms were anecdotal and hearsay, discovered that a staff member who could barely speak English was regularly left in charge of wards for up to three hours at night. It found faulty record-keeping, unfair overtime allocation and an unfair policy on holidays.

It also said: "Night nursing management did not appear to follow national and local guidelines regarding the recruitment, selection and appointment of staff."

The report cleared night sisters and said patients had not suffered.

Mr Dell'Erario, of St Albans, Hertfordshire, refused to comment.

Police say farewell to Harrods bomb WPC

By Tony Samstag

The Metropolitan Police paid their last respects yesterday to Miss Jane Philippa Arbuthnot, Woman Police Constable 481'B, attached to Chelsea Police Station.

WPC Arbuthnot, aged 22, was one of two police officers who died in the bomb explosion at Harrods on December 17. A third officer, Inspector Stephen Dodd, aged 34, died on Christmas Eve of injuries received in the blast and is to be buried next week.

The funeral congregation at St Luke's Church, round the corner from the police station in Lucan Place, was a still sea of black uniforms punctuated only by the white hats of Miss Arbuthnot's female colleagues.

In his address, the Right Rev Mark Sauter, Bishop of Kensington, spoke of a collective "debt of pride and gratitude to men and women who have counted the cost, and know the risks, and are still prepared to do what has to be done to protect the life and the security of their fellow citizens."

Sergeant Michael Thwaites' appreciation dwelt on WPC Arbuthnot's style, in particular her bicycle, which she had bought "to enable her, in her own words, to 'zap around the ground'."

Sir Kenneth Newman, Metropolitan Police Commissioner, was among the congregation. The pall-bearers, all close colleagues of the dead woman, included two who had been slightly injured in the Harrods explosion, Police Constables Mark Grover and Peter Weinberg. The anthem, Mendelssohn's "Bene Mortui" was sung by the Metropolitan Police choir.

Burial, in south London, was private. Police Constable Jon Gordon, the dog handler who lost a leg in the Harrods blast, may have to undergo another operation, it was announced yesterday.



Among the police guard of honour outside St Luke's Church, WPC Pamela White weeps for her murdered colleague (Photograph: Chris Harris).

Law firm collapses with debts of £400,000

From Our Correspondent

A firm of solicitors in Liverpool has collapsed with debts of £400,000 and is being investigated by police.

The Law Society launched its own inquiry into Neville, Piercy and Calvey six weeks ago and appointed other solicitors to take over the business. Meanwhile, the commercial branch of Merseyside Police has started an inquiry into complaints from five former clients.

Mr Anthony Ostrin, of Yaffe, Jackson and Ostrin, the solicitors dealing with outstanding business, claimed yesterday that banks in Liverpool were owed more than £300,000.

"The money due to the banks has disappeared over a period of 18 months", he said.

He said the Law Society had set up a compensation fund of £15,000 for former clients but more than £80,000 had already been claimed.

Earlier this year the senior partner, Mr Alex Calvey, was fined £225 with £25 costs for failing to provide a return for value-added tax.

The Law Society said yesterday that inquiries by its professional purposes committee would be completed by the end of January.

Mr Calvey, who represented the child killer Ronald Waldron at preliminary hearings earlier this year, declined to comment at home in St George's Road, Hightown.

Falklands eggs now penguins

Two penguin eggs from the Falklands have hatched out at the Birdland sanctuary in Bourton-on-the-Water, in Gloucestershire.

Mr Richard Hill, whose late father bought the uninhabited Grand Jason and Steeple Jason islands in the Falklands 30 years ago, went there last month and brought back a batch

Sony cuts disc price by £90

By Bill Johnstone, Electronics Correspondent

The latest price war in the high street shops moved into a new phase yesterday with the Japanese consumer electronics manufacturer, Sony, cutting the price of its compact disc players only ten months after its British launch, in an attempt to match European competition.

By October only 10,000 of all types were sold, made largely by Sony, Philips and Marantz but, with more companies making the players, fierce competition, further price reductions and a boom in sales is expected.

Christmas sales are expected to show another 10,000 have been bought.

The Sony players have been reduced by £90 from the £549 launch price. Sony said: "In spite of the player's sophistication we cannot ignore our competitors' price reductions or the introduction of further compact disc players on the market from new manufacturers not involved in the development of the system."

Philips and Sony developed the technology, which uses a

laser as a stylus and reproduces high quality music from a disc the size of a beer mat. The disc plays for a hour on one side only.

There are about 500 titles available on compact disc which are pressed principally by Polygram in its factory in Hanover, West Germany, and CBS-Sony in Japan.

The players were launched in October last year in Japan and this year in most of Europe and the United States.

£1 note gets stay of execution

By Kenneth Gostling

The Prime Minister's remarks last week concerning the unpopularity of the £1 coin appear to have lengthened the timescale over which the coin will eventually replace the note.

Mr Ian Stewart, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, has said in a letter to Mr Norman Atkinson, Labour MP for Tottenham, that the Government always intended to withdraw the note "once the public had got used to the coin."

The trouble with the £1 note, as Mr Stewart said in his letter, is that it gets stuffed into pockets and purses and into shop tills and not returned to banks when its short life is over, to be replaced by new ones.

But for the foreseeable future - and no one was prepared to say yesterday when the full changeover will occur - the public will continue to choose between the two and, as Mrs Margaret Thatcher said last week, generally prefer the note, however tatty and grubby it may become.

It will certainly be retained, as she also said. The question mark hangs over the word "indefinitely".



MP's flying tackle: Mr William Waldegrave, (above), Under-Secretary of State in the Department of the Environment, caught a thief in full flight during a Christmas shopping trip, in London.

The Tory MP for Bristol West saw a man leaving the Guy La Roche shop in Bond Street with stolen goods.

After crying "stop thief", Mr Waldegrave, aged 37, sprinted after him, and bought the shoplifter down with a rugby tackle. With the help of a passer-by he then retrieved the goods, worth £1,500.

But as he picked himself up the thief fled.

Mr Waldegrave, an occasional early-morning jogger, was presented by the shop with a gift for his wife Caroline.

Low-price Scotch under fire

By Philip Webster

A David and Goliath struggle to save the cheap Scotch dram has developed among whisky producers north of the border.

Three firms who have been selling special cheaper, if slightly weaker, brands are under threat from government regulations for which the powerful Scotch Whisky Association has been pressing.

Most whisky is sold at a strength of 40 per cent alcohol volume. By bringing the alcohol content down by 2.5 per cent the three companies, Glenrothes, Grangemouth Bond and the Co-op, have been able to take advantage of a sharp drop in the duty payable and sell their bottles at about £1 less.

The Government has drawn up regulations, which were due to come into force on January 1, to prohibit the production of whisky below 40 per cent alcohol, but has decided to hold off to consider a mass of representations on the issue.

The Scotch Whisky Association argues that if the British regulations are changed other countries will follow suit and its exports will be protected. It says that whisky being produced in France and elsewhere at 25 or 30 per cent alcohol is ruining the good name of Scotch.

The three small producers, however, suspect that it is not the only reason, and have been arguing in talks with ministers that if the objective is to squeeze out the French the limit could be set at 37.5.

But the association is worried enough about the home competition to have done some calculations which it claims proves that the cheap dram is not the bargain it is made out to be.

It has averaged the prices of eight standard brands at £6.77 a bottle. It states that if High Commission, which now sells at £5.99 had been bottled at full strength in the standard size bottle its retail equivalent would be £6.85.

'Heart for Christmas' girl home for new year

Emma Pashley, aged 7, returned home yesterday after doctors declared themselves very pleased with her progress after a heart operation.

The girl from Cheadle, Greater Manchester, had the operation two weeks ago after writing to Santa Claus asking for a new heart for Christmas.

It had been discovered that her heart was on the wrong side of her body and the wrong way round with transposed arteries.

Yesterday her parents, Mr Rod Pashley and his wife Susan, collected her from the Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital.

It is understood that the family, from Brookfield Road, have signed an exclusive deal with a national newspaper.

Doctors gave the couple the all-clear after seeing them yesterday. It had been feared that the girl would have to stay in hospital over the new year because of a family infection.

That was because doctors did not want any risk to her health after the marathon operation.

Miss Josie McGreal, hospital assistant administrator, said: "Emma was given a medical discharge on Wednesday. But she was kept in hospital as her family had a virus infection."

"Her condition is generally extremely good. We are very pleased with her progress. She will be reviewed in the admission clinic in two weeks' time."

Napley defends Smith inquest fee

Sir David Napley, the lawyer who charged £164 an hour for representing Dr Richard Arnot at the Helen Smith inquest, said yesterday that there had been a "complete misunderstanding and lack of knowledge" over the way his fee was calculated.

Sir David, who was assisted by another solicitor from his firm throughout the hearing a year ago, has been criticized for issuing a bill for £32,237.

The final charge includes a 100 per cent "mark-up" because of the complexities of the case.

It is being met by West Yorkshire County Council out of the rates, but the council chairman, Mr John Guncell, has said he was shocked by the "enormous" bill.

Sir David, speaking on BBC Radio's *The World At One* programme, said the bill included hotel and travelling

expenses for two people from London to Leeds and Harrogate.

In order to keep it "fair", the travelling costs were based on the cost of rail fares, he added.

"There has been a complete misunderstanding and lack of knowledge on how solicitors' fees are calculated", he said. "They are not my fees. They are the fees of my firm, and what happens is that the cost of having someone working in a firm has to be worked out."

"That is the basic charge which is charged at £82 an hour, and then there is the mark-up this is the same in any business."

"If you go into a shop you pay so much for an article which represents the cost plus a mark-up which is often in excess of 100 per cent and running a legal practice is the same."

"You have to have back-up - other solicitors are employed, computers, telephones, rent, rates. All these things have to be paid for. But it is distorting the position to make it appear that the lawyer takes the whole amount and puts it in his pocket."

Sir David said that when legal fees were assessed by taxing masters they took into account the amount of work done, the complexity of it and the experience of the solicitor involved.

According to Sir David, the county council agreed to pay "reasonable" fees on behalf of Dr Arnot. But he said that he had no dealing with the council.

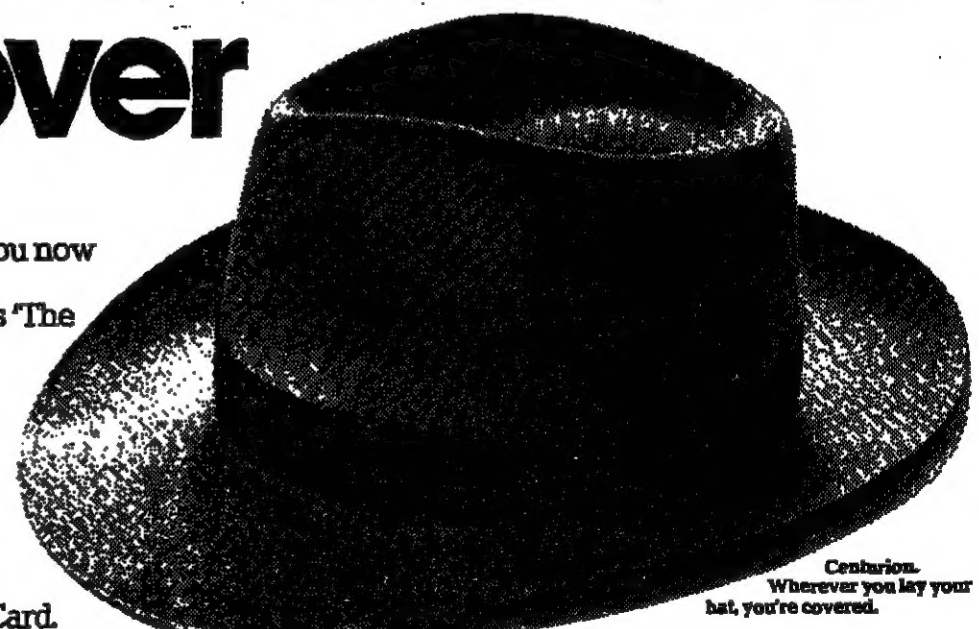
He said that he did not think it right that the cost should be borne by the ratepayers just because of the geographical accident of the inquest being held in their locality.

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Memorise the following communication. If you carry the American Express Card you now qualify for travel insurance of unrivalled value. Centurion Cover and Assistance, services 'The Times' called "one of the best deals available". In our opinion that's putting it mildly.

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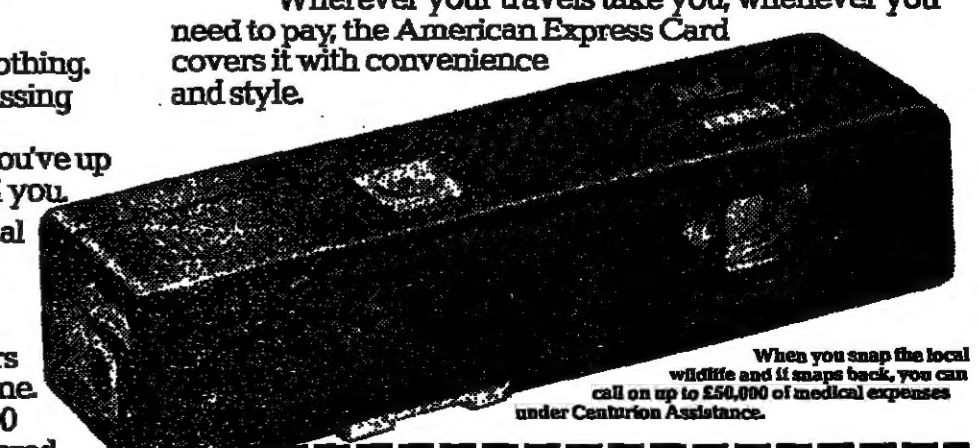
There's a 24-hour emergency service ready to rush to your aid should your fan belt snap on the Autobahn, or should a collision cut short your touring holiday.

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Sir Peter Gordon (Kt): Chairman, chief executive of IBM (United Kingdom); also a director of National Westminster Bank and Royal Insurance; president, National Association for Gifted Children



Philip Shelbourne (Kt): Lawyer, merchant banker and oil man; in 1980, first chairman, chief executive of British National Oil Corporation, entered production area, Britoil, into private sector.



Peter Thompson (Kt): Chairman of National Freight Consortium largely credited with successful £33m staff buyout of Royal Mail, includes British Road Services, National Carriers, and Pickfords.



Arthur Gold (Kt): President, European Athletic Association, chairman, English Games Committee, former high jumper; one of most influential officials internationally in last 20 years.



Bertie Mee (OBE): Jointed Arsenal Football Club as physiotherapist in 1966; manager of team which won League Cup double in 1971, now director at Watford.



Mick Mills (MBE): Vastly experienced English international footballer, made nearly 600 League appearances for Ipswich Town captained country in 1982 World Cup finals.



Richard Bailey (Kt): Executive chairman of Royal Doulton Tableware; also on board of Central Independent Television, trustee of British Ceramic Manufacturers' Federation.



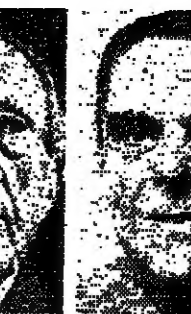
Jean Muir (CBE): Retired as chairman of Distillers Company last September, played golf for Scotland, 1952 to 1956.



John Cater (Kt): Retired as chairman of Distillers Company last September, played golf for Scotland, 1952 to 1956.



Sir Sachverell Sitwell (CH): Writer and poet, known particularly for work on architecture and art; books include *Southern Baroque*, *Art, British Architects and Gothic Europe*.



John Wain (CBE): Novelist, playwright and poet; professor of poetry at Oxford University from 1973 to 78; books include *The Contenders*, *A Travelling Woman*, and *Wreck Before God*.



Dick Francis (OBE): Author of best selling thrillers set in world of horse racing; former professional jockey, *Champion Jockey* 1953-54; racing correspondent of *Sunday Express* 1957-73.

PRIME MINISTER'S LIST

LIFE PEERS

Barons
Bottomley, Arthur George, MP from 1945 to 1959, and from 1962 to 1983. Minister of Overseas Development 1966-67.
Henderson, Sir Peter Gordon, lately clerk of the Parliaments.
McAlpine, Robert Alistair, joint treasurer of the Conservative and Unionist Party.
Muller, Frederick William, MP for the Bank Division of Sheffield 1950-53, Secretary of State for Defence 1976-79.

COMPANIONS OF HONOUR

Baronesses
Rennison, Sir Steven, for services to Byzantine art and history.
Stewart, Sir Sachverell, author.

PRIVY COUNCILLORS

Baker, Kenneth Wilfred, MP, Minister of State, Department of Trade and Industry.
Charles, Kenneth Harry, QC, MP, Minister of State, Department of Health and Social Security.

KNIGHTS BACHELOR

Badenoch, John, consultant physician, Oxfordshire District Health Authority.

Bailey, Richard John, chairman, Royal Doulton Tableware.

Bathurst, Maurice Edward, QC, for services to international and comparative law.

Bevan, Timothy Hugh, chairman, Barclays Bank.

Bramley, Paul Anthony, Professor of dental surgery, University of Sheffield.

Brown, James William Alexander, for services to journalism and broadcasting.

Byford, Lawrence, HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary.

Cair, John Robert, lately chairman, The Distillers Company.

Edwards, Oswald, chairman, American Regal, Editor, MP, for political and public service.

Flanagan, Geoffrey, MP, for political and public service.

Ford, Richard Brinsley, for services to the arts.

Garner, Anthony Stuart, for political service.

Gold, Arthur Abraham, for services to sport.

Hanill, Patrick, Chief Constable, Strathclyde Police.

Hugh-Jones, Wyn Normington, for political and public service.

Lease, Peter Stewart, for political service in the south of England.

Lawson, Christopher Donald, for political service.

Le Marchant, Spencer, for political and public service.

Nixon, Edwin Ronald, chairman and chief executive, IBM United Kingdom (Holdings) Ltd.

Obelasky, Dimitri, professor of Russian and Balkan History, University of Oxford.

Slings, Kenneth Johnston, lately head of Government Accounts, Treasury Service, Department of Trade and Industry.

Shelbourne, Philip, chairman, Britoil.

Stimpson, William James, lately chairman, Health and Safety Commission.

Southwell, Thomas Richard Edmund, Lincaster Professor of Zoology, University of Oxford.

Sparrow, John, lately director-general, Central Policy Review Staff.

Straker, Michael Ian, for services to public services in the North-east.

Swinson, John Henry Alan, for public services in Northern Ireland.

Thompson, Peter Anthony, chairman and chief executive, National Freight Consortium.

Vase, John Robert, for services to pharmaceutical research.

Vaughan, Gerard Ffoliot, MP, for political and public service.

Veale, Alan John Ralph, managing director, GEC Power Engineering Ltd., for services to industry.

Walters, Peter Ingram, chairman, the British Petroleum Company.

Wilson, David Mackenzie, director, British Museum.

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New Year Honours in full



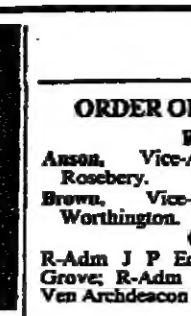
Alistair McAlpine (Life Peer): Joint honours treasurer, Conservative Party, deputy chairman since 1979; director of Sir Robert McAlpine construction company since 1963; member of Arts Council, 1981-82.



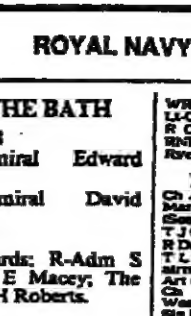
Arthur Bottomley (Life Peer): Former Labour Secretary of State for Commonwealth Affairs dealing with Rhodesian UDI in mid-1960s; Minister of Overseas Development, 1966-67, MP for Teasdale, Middleborough, until last June.



Sir Peter Henderson (Life Peer): Retired last July as Clerk of the Parliaments after nine years; Clerk to House of Lords, 1954-68; Reading Clerk and Clerk of Public Bills, 1964-74.



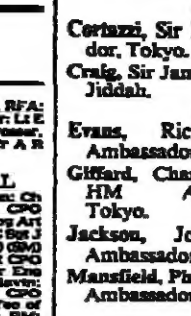
Richard Bailey (Kt): Executive chairman of Royal Doulton Tableware; also on board of Central Independent Television, trustee of British Ceramic Manufacturers' Federation.



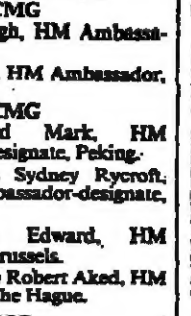
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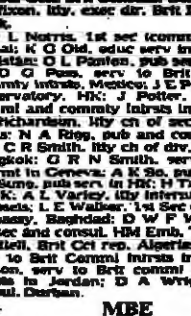
John Cater (Kt): Retired as chairman of Distillers Company last September, played golf for Scotland, 1952 to 1956.



Sir Sachverell Sitwell (CH): Writer and poet, known particularly for work on architecture and art; books include *Southern Baroque*, *Art, British Architects and Gothic Europe*.



John Wain (CBE): Novelist, playwright and poet; professor of poetry at Oxford University from 1973 to 78; books include *The Contenders*, *A Travelling Woman*, and *Wreck Before God*.



Dick Francis (OBE): Author of best selling thrillers set in world of horse racing; former professional jockey, *Champion Jockey* 1953-54; racing correspondent of *Sunday Express* 1957-73.

ROYAL NAVY LIST

ORDER OF THE BATH

KCB
Anson, Vice-Admiral Edward
Rosbery.

Brown, Vice-Admiral David
Worthington.

CB
R-Adm J P Edwards; R-Adm S
Groom; R-Adm D E Macey; The
Ven Archdeacon R H Roberts.

ORDER OF THE BRITISH
EMPIRE

CBE
Cdre A Castagli; Capt G K Beattie.
RNR, CAPT J Husk; Capt H W
Young.

OBE
Cdr P Burt; Cdr J G Cooke; Cdr E C
Dodd; Cdr J G Fothergill; Cdr J G
Hewitt; Cdr J G Jones; Cdr J G
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Galtieri joins two former Presidents indicted for murder and treason

From Our Correspondent
Buenos Aires

Former President Galtieri of Argentina, who was also the Army commander, and the Navy and Air Force commanders who helped him to play last year's ill-fated Falklands invasion, were arraigned yesterday on charges of murder, torture, and illegal deprivation of liberty by Argentina's highest military court.

The court appearances came one day after four former armed services commanders, including former Presidents Jorge Videla and Roberto Viola, presented themselves before the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces here. They are accused of the same crimes by the military's new commander-in-chief, the new civilian President, Señor Raúl Alfonsín.

In all, nine former service commanders, comprising the first three of four military juntas ruling Argentina since the armed forces seized power here in 1976, are being tried in the Government-ordered courts martial.

One of the two commanders who has not yet been arraigned



General Galtieri. In the dock with junta colleagues

is former Navy Commander Emilio Massera, who is under "preventive arrest" in a Buenos Aires naval jail pending a civilian court investigation of the mysterious disappearance in 1977 of a Buenos Aires man believed to have been his business partner.

The courts martial proceedings, begun on Thursday, were ordered in a special decree two weeks ago by President Alfonsín, the 56-year-old leader of the mainly middle-class Radical Party, who was inaugurated on

December 10 to end nearly eight years of military rule here.

The decree was seen as an effort to fulfill a repeated campaign pledge by Señor Alfonsín to try those responsible for the military's bloody campaign against leftist terrorism in the mid and late 1970s.

More than 6,000 Argentines are believed to have been kidnapped and murdered by state security and armed forces. The new President's initiatives, which include a commission to investigate the fate of the disappeared and special legislation to facilitate the investigation of military personnel by civilian courts, have prompted a broadening pursuit by Argentines of their country's bloody past.

Court-ordered exhumations from mass graves of the bodies of presumed victims of state security forces were due to have taken place yesterday in Buenos Aires.

In apparent effort to keep a politically even-handed approach to past civil strife, Señor Alfonsín's Government announced on Thursday the formation of a special anti-terrorist security force



Israelis close Awali bridges

Sidon (Reuters) - Israeli forces blocked all roads into occupied southern Lebanon with barbed wire yesterday as a wave of protest which started in Sidon on Thursday spread north to Beirut.

Israeli officers said the three crossing points - at the Awali bridge on the coast, at Bisi bridge 10 miles inland and at Nihia in the Chouf mountains - would be open again on Monday. No explanation was given for the closure.

Military sources in Tel Aviv said technical reasons lay behind closing the two bridges over the Awali, Israel's northern defence line in Lebanon since its forces withdrew from Beirut. A funeral procession from Beirut was turned back at the Awali yesterday and lorry drivers who had been waiting to cross for days fumed with rage at the surprise closure.

Outbreaks of gunfire around Sidon were reported on Thursday night, but there was no confirmation of new attacks on Israeli troops in the port town.

The closure of the bridges, Southern Lebanon's only links with the rest of the country, followed a marked escalation in anti-Israeli resistance activity and a general strike against the occupation in Sidon.

Security measures imposed at the Awali last month after a bombing in the Tyre are the main cause of Lebanese grievance. The Italian Defence Ministry, Signor Giovanni Spadolini, arrived in Beirut unexpectedly yesterday to visit Italy's 2,300-strong contingent to the four-nation Western peacekeeping force in the Lebanese capital, Beirut radio said (Reuters reports). The radio gave no details of

his visit and the Italian military spokesman could not be contacted.

The Italian Defence Ministry said on Thursday that Signor Spadolini had asked the Italian commander in Beirut, General Franco Angioni, to approach the Lebanese Army about reports of army checks and searches inside the Italian zone.

TEL AVIV: A seven vehicle Irish UN convoy was caught in a guerrilla ambush on a coastal road in southern Lebanon. The Israeli pursued their attackers and the Irish, who had taken cover, escaped injury. (AP reports).

Locked up 31 years for knowing no English

From Trevor Fishlock
New York

Thirty-one years ago, David Tom was locked up in a mental institution after doctors decided he was mad. But they did not speak to him, nor he to them, because he had no English and the authorities found no one who could speak his dialect of Chinese.

Over the years he learnt only a few words of English including "No not crazy, why I here?"

He was right and the doctors wrong. Now, after a four-year legal battle, he is free and, at the age of 54, is learning to live outside an institution. He has been awarded \$140,000 compensation. He does not talk about his 31 lost years.

Mr Tom arrived in the United States as an illegal immigrant and worked in a restaurant kitchen in San Francisco. Later he moved to Chicago but learned no English because he lived his life within the large Chinese community there.

He became ill with tuberculosis and, isolated and frightened, had a nervous breakdown. Doctors diagnosed schizophrenia, but they found nobody to talk to him. His brother, also living in Chicago, did not volunteer to help him. He, too, was an illegal immigrant and feared he would be deported if he made himself known.

So Mr Tom spent his life in four institutions, talking with no one. It was not until 1978 that he had a conversation in his native tongue. He was taken out for a meal in a Chinese restaurant and began talking to the cook.

He told the cook his story and asked for help. The cook told the hospital worker accompanying him that in his view Mr Tom was not mentally ill, and that started the process which led to his freedom this week.

He is now in the care of Mr Patrick Murphy, a court-appointed guardian. Mr Murphy, a lawyer, said yesterday: "He is living with Chinese people who are helping to guide him back to normal life. Naturally he has been damaged by being locked up for 31 years. He is frightened that he will be sent back."

Climbers airlifted off by order of Muldoon

Timaru, New Zealand (Reuters) - Seven disabled Japanese climbers were airlifted off New Zealand's highest peak on the orders of the Prime Minister, Mr Robert Muldoon.

All members of the Tokyo Deaf and Mute Climbing Society, they were flown down from Mount Cook by Air Force helicopter after ignoring earlier warnings that conditions on the 12,421ft mountain were dangerous.

They have done their training on Mount Fujiyama where you can walk to the top and back on a Sunday afternoon," Mr Muldoon said. "I suppose there will be a bit of a fuss, but there would have been a worse fuss if they got themselves killed."

Lady Young to visit Grenada

Lady Young, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, will visit Grenada between January 5 and 7, the Foreign Office announced. It will be the first visit by a British minister since the US invasion.

When Lady Young meets the Governor-General, Sir Paul Scoon, and members of the Interim Council, the question of aid will be high on the agenda. Mr Shridath Ramphal, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, will also be visiting Grenada next week.

Two survive in plane wreckage

Albuquerque, New Mexico (Reuters) - A pilot and his son are in hospital after surviving the five days of freezing temperatures in the wreckage of a light aircraft that crashed in rugged mountains near here.

Mr Tony Mink, aged 36, an aircraft dealer, and his son Brian, aged 14, were found by a search helicopter. Mr Mink's wife, Charlene, died shortly after the crash.

Royal escape

Salzburg (Reuters) - Princess Margriet of The Netherlands and her husband and two sons escaped unhurt from a two-car collision which killed a 20-year-old West German, the other driver near here. The princess is a sister of Queen Beatrix.

Test-tube trio

Kiel (AP) - A West German woman, aged 26, has given birth to Europe's first set of test-tube triplets, doctors announced here. The babies, all boys, were delivered by Caesarean section and they and their mother are doing fine.

Writer punished

Moscow (Reuters) - Michel Heller, the Russian writer who has lived in France for the past decade, was deprived of his Soviet citizenship in an official decree published here. It accused him of "systematic hostile activities".

Tourists hurt

Budapest (AP) - Sixteen West German tourists were injured, six of them seriously, when their bus crashed into a ditch while being overtaken by a lorry in dense fog. The Hungarian lorry driver was arrested.

Plague victims

Dar es Salaam (Reuters) - Plague has killed 10 more people in northern Tanzania, bringing the death toll over the past two weeks to 29.

Artful dodgers

Manila (Reuters) - About 40 boys, apparently trained by moonday Filipino Fagin as petty thieves, pickpockets and bag-snatchers have been arrested here. They ranged in age from six to 14.

Belaúnde reshuffles Peru Cabinet

Lima (Reuters) - President Fernando Belaúnde Terry of Peru was due to swear in three new ministers yesterday in his biggest Cabinet shakeup in nearly a year.

The reshuffle had been awaited since November 16 when President Belaúnde, who replaced half his 16-member Cabinet last January, said he would make changes in his team before the end of the year.

The most important ministry to change hands is Energy and Mines, which oversees products earning Peru more than half of its yearly export income of about \$2,000m.

Peru is the world's second biggest silver producer and the sixth biggest producer of copper. It also exports nearly 40,000 tonnes a day of gemstones and fuel oil to the United States and Colombia.

The new minister, Señor Jose Benavides Munoz, aged 55, was previously manager of Peru's main steelmaker, the state-owned Siderperu corporation. At the Fisheries Ministry, Señor Ismael Benavides Ferrey-

Riot troops seize 100 in Uruguay

Montevideo (Reuters) - Riot troops and mounted police charged into a crowd demonstrating against Uruguay's 10-year-old military Government and arrested about 100 people, witnesses said yesterday.

Several demonstrators were kicked, punched and hit with truncheons during the Thursday night protest. One young man was beaten by several policemen and then dragged to a building site where an officer kicked his head, they said.

Motorists on Montevideo's main avenue held their horns and neighbours banged saucepans from their balconies.

The demonstration, in support of Mr German Araujo, the owner of an independent radio station shut down by the Government, was staged outside the flat where he has been on hunger strike.

Small demonstrations have been held there every day since the radio station was closed on December 27.

Chile protest, page 8

Explosions at mosques cause panic

From Christopher Walker
Jerusalem

The recent upsurge of terrorist attacks inside Israel and the occupied territories intensified yesterday with the explosion of two booby-trapped grenades outside mosques in the West Bank city of Hebron, and a narrowly foiled attempt to blow up a crowded bus full of Jewish passengers in Jerusalem.

The bomb on the bus was safely defused after being spotted under a seat as the vehicle was driving close to the main open air market. Earlier this month, Mr Yasser Arafat's wing of the Palestine Liberation Organization claimed responsibility for a similar attack in which six Jews were killed, and more than 30 injured.

Yesterday one Islamic holy man was injured in the Hebron blast, both of which were claimed in a call to Israel radio by an extreme right-wing Jewish organization called Terror Against Terror (words, which in their original Hebrew make up the ominous acronym, TNT). The Israeli Army issued fragmentation grenades were the same as those used in nine similar attacks against Arab or Christian targets in and around Jerusalem over the past three weeks.

The PLO's bomb is assumed to have been the catalyst which prompted the latest wave of Jewish revenge attacks. Yesterday's Mosque explosions caused mass panic throughout the West Bank because the caller claimed that two more attacks against Arab targets were planned later.

Mr Mustapha Natche, the deposed Arab Mayor of Hebron, accused the Israeli military authorities of overall responsibility for the mosque explosion, and called for a determined effort to arrest the culprits. No arrests have yet been made for the string of recent attacks claimed by Terror Against Terror, and the Government has been blamed for not ensuring a proper investigation.

Madrid hunt for envoy's killer

Madrid - Spanish police were yesterday hunting among opponents of Mr Yasser Arafat, Palestine Liberation Organization leader, for the man who on Thursday shot dead a Jordanian Embassy official (Richard Wigg writes). They had few clues, apart from a claim for responsibility by the so-called Arab Revolutionary Brigades, made in a telephone call to Paris.

Police think the killer of Walid Jamal Bakiz, aged 34, may have belonged to the Abu Nidal Palestinian terrorist group, which in September last year killed in Madrid a first secretary of the Kuwait Em-



Mission to Syria: Mr Jackson (right) and his party on the flight from New York

Hopeful Jackson flies to Damascus

Frankfurt (AP) - The Rev Jesse Jackson left yesterday on the second leg of his journey to Syria, saying he was hopeful about arranging the release of the US Navy pilot Lieutenant Robert Goodman, captured during an American raid on Syrian positions in Lebanon.

"The point is, if we do nothing, nothing will happen," he said after resting in a VIP lounge following an overnight flight from New York. Mr Jackson, accompanied by a delegation of US clergymen, left for Damascus on a Lufthansa flight.

The civil rights leader and Democratic

presidential candidate told reporters that neither race nor politics played a role in his decision to fly to Syria.

"This is a truly American matter. I have been involved in humanitarian missions in the past."

Mr Jackson said he was carrying a letter from Lieutenant Goodman's mother, who lives in New York. He spoke to her by telephone shortly before leaving Frankfurt and said he promised to try to arrange a telephone call from her son if possible.

"We will appeal to President Assad (of Syria) to release him on humanitarian grounds."

US fails to muster much support for its threat of withdrawal

Britain tries to change Unesco from within

The British Government has no intention of following the United States' decision to withdraw from Unesco, the cultural agency of the United Nations.

This was made clear yesterday in a Foreign Office statement which emphasizes that Britain is better placed to achieve improvements and economies from within the organization.

Washington's reasons for withdrawal were given as the alleged extravagance of Unesco and its "hostilities" to a free society.

The Foreign Office statement says: "The United Kingdom fully understands the reasons which have led the United States to take their decision to withdraw. We have always been foremost among those member-countries of Unesco which have been critical of the organization's performance."

"We have, in particular, led the resistance to all attempts to restrict the freedom of the media through a 'New World Information and Communications Order', and to redefine human rights in a way which would only restrict them for the individual."

"We have fought hard to

Spending will rise but contributions fall

From Roger Beardwood, Paris

Few things are simple at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the budget is probably least simple of all.

Although some 60 per cent of Unesco's spending is in French francs, it levies contributions and keeps accounts in US dollars. When drawing up the budget, Unesco therefore assumes a dollar-franc exchange rate for two years ahead - and errs on the cautious side.

So when the Unesco director-general proposed the 1984-85 budget, a two-year total of \$403.1 (£278m), eight Western nations, headed by the US and including Britain, protested. The assumed exchange rate of 6.45 francs to the dollar was too low, they argued. Some of the eight also insisted on no increase in the budget instead of one of 6.1 per cent.

The eight were able to send the budget back for revision. Last month the general conference passed a new two-year figure: \$374.4m. Furthermore, Unesco asked the 152 members to pay only \$344.7m.

In fact, the cut was not what it seemed: Unesco was digging into past over-payments result-

ing from unrealistic dollar-franc exchange rates. So, almost miraculously, spending for 1984-85 will rise by about \$10m, or 4.5 per cent, while contributions will fall by about 10 per cent.

But the percentage that members pay is unchanged. Britain's assessment is 4.61 per cent of the total, based on a formula that includes population and national income. But the \$15.85m it is due to pay will turn out to be far less - thanks again to the currency fluctuations fund, the 1984 contribution of \$7.94m will be reduced to \$4.86m.

West Germany's share of the total is 8.44 per cent and France's is 6.43 per cent. Japan, because of its larger population and wealth, pays 10.9 per cent. The Soviet Union, with far more people than Japan contributes 10.41 per cent, owing to its lower per capita income.

Italy will contribute 3.69 per cent, Canada 3.04 per cent, Spain 1.91 per cent, East Germany 1.37 per cent, Brazil 1.37 and Sweden 1.30 per cent. The remaining 141 countries' contributions total 22.24 per cent.

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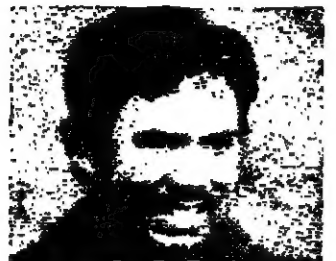
Britain gives up 95-year responsibility for tiny Brunei at midnight tonight

From David Watts, Singapore

Britain gives up the last of its direct responsibilities in South-East Asia at midnight today, when the tiny state of Brunei attains full independence.

Reading a short declaration of independence in the centre of his capital, Bandar Seri Begawan, the Sultan, Sir Muda Hassanal Bolkiah, will then bring to an end 95 years of British protection for the enclave on the north coast of Borneo.

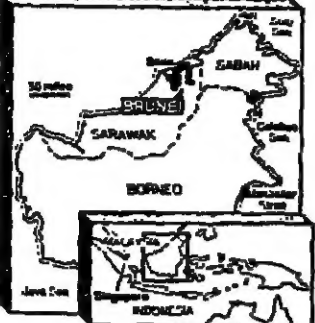
Sole responsibility for some 200,000 souls will once again pass to the Sultan's family which has held power there for the last 400 years.



Sir Muda: Responsibility for 200,000 people

With the Sultan will be other members of the royal family and the government, who will also attend prayers earlier on at the Omar Ali Saifuddin mosque. It was named after the present Sultan's father, who has been the power behind Brunei's dogged maintenance of the British connexion for so long.

Early next year, Brunei will take its place as the sixth member of the Association of South-East Asian Nations. It will be not only the richest per capita in the group but also arguably the most heavily armed. It is also expected to



apply to join the United Nations.

But while tonight's celebrations will mark the end of British responsibility for Brunei's defence and foreign affairs, the British connexion will remain close for the foreseeable future.

A large amount of Brunei's foreign financial investments will still be in the hands of the Crown Agents, a British Gurkha battalion will be stationed at the oil fields and some 150 Britons will remain with the Royal Brunei Malay Regiment to help bring into service British Rapier anti-aircraft missiles.

But the historic handing over of power to the young Sultan will pass with hardly a ripple in the little sultanate. The streets are decked with flags and banners proclaiming merdeka (Independence), but in reality there will be no change in the lives of Bruneians. They are already well used to the luxuries of the twentieth century and well protected from the harsh world beyond the South China Sea by seemingly endless oil wealth.

Microchip smuggling ring broken

From Our Own Correspondent Singapore

Advanced microchips smuggled through Singapore are being channelled to East block countries.

The Singapore and Malaysian authorities appear to have broken a sophisticated smuggling ring with the arrest of three people in Singapore but investigations are continuing and further arrests are expected.

The Singapore Government is reluctant to say very much and so far the police have not named those arrested or revealed the capacity of the stolen chips. But it is clear that investigations have been under way for some time since the chips began disappearing from the Panang Malaysia plant of the American firm Mostek.

Chips started to go missing some months ago. A few would be stolen during shipment from the factory in north-west Malaysia to be sold under the cover in some of the dozens of outlets for computer equipment in Singapore.

Mostek tightened its security and the problem disappeared, but the smugglers began staging fake accidents and hijackings during which the chips would be misappropriated and passed, through the Singapore computer stores, into the hands of visiting Indians posing as tourists. They would buy the chips for onward transmission.

The chips were then apparently channelled through India to countries of the East block in Europe or the Soviet Union, though the police so far have not named the countries involved.

The three arrests were made during raids by Singapore police on Christmas Day.

The arrests were prompted by a particularly spectacular mishap in Malaysia when a lorry carrying chips worth 1m ringgit (about £300,000) lost its cargo.

Closure warning to Peugeot plant

Paris (Reuters) - The management of the Peugeot Car Division told union representatives at its strike-bound Talbot car plant at Poissy yesterday that the factory would be closed indefinitely from Monday, and that salaries would not be paid.

They said in a statement that workers illegally occupying the plant had prevented essential maintenance work from being carried out to enable production to start on January 2.

About 100 striking workers occupying the plant refused for the second day running yesterday to allow in the maintenance teams. The rebel trade unionists are defying a court order to leave.

The statement said the plant would reopen only when conditions had returned to normal.

The plant has been paralysed by a strike for the past three weeks, and today's move has cast doubts over Talbot's future. Peugeot, which purchased Talbot from Chrysler in 1978, earlier this week announced moves to distance itself legally from Talbot.

Talbot S.N.C., which builds

the cars at Poissy, is jointly owned by Peugeot and Talbot S.A. A statement said Peugeot's shares would be transferred to a dormant company called Sora S.A.

The dispute has embarrassed France's government. It began when Peugeot announced it wanted to axe 2,900 workers from the Poissy plant. The Prime Minister, M. Pierre Mauroy, persuaded the management to reduce the figure to 1,900.

M. Jean-Pierre Noual, shop steward with the pro-Socialist CFDT union, said yesterday: "The fight goes on. We are going to organize a big campaign to explain all this. We want the redundancy notices withdrawn and negotiations started."

The Communist-led CGT has accepted the principle of the 1,905 lay-offs, but maintains there must be negotiations over how they take place. The CFDT leadership has refused to accept the redundancy scheme and its chief, M. Edmond Maire, has attacked the Government's handling of the Talbot affair.

New foreign minister in North Korea

Tokyo (Reuters) - Mr Ho Dam, North Korea's Foreign Minister, who held the post for 13 years, was replaced yesterday by Mr Kim Yong Nam, the North Korean Central News Agency reported.

The agency, monitored here, said Mr Ho had been removed from the Foreign Ministry portfolio and his deputy premiership and transferred.

Mr Kim is a politburo member, a secretary of the Central Committee of the ruling Workers (Communist) Party and head of the party's international affairs department.

Unita conduct praised by freed captives

Johannesburg (Reuters) - Twenty-six foreigners released by the Angolan guerrilla group Unita spent their first day of freedom yesterday and said they were well-treated during months as hostages.

Most of the group, born of Portuguese parents in Angola, a former Portuguese colony, were preparing to leave for Lisbon last night and a new life in Portugal.

"I feel sad about leaving Angola - I had everything there," said Senhor Antonio Silva, aged 31, "but I'm young and can start life in Portugal."

Senhor Silva, his wife and two children and 17 other Portuguese were among the 26 who flew in from Angola on Thursday on a Red Cross flight. The group, which also included two Spaniards, a Uruguayan and a Brazilian, was set free in a Christmas amnesty by Unita and its leader Dr Josao Savimbi, who is fighting the Marxist government in Luanda.

The Angolan-born Senhor Silva, captured nine months ago in Alto Catumbelo province south of the capital, spoke with neither bitterness nor emotion of his 78-day trek with his Unita captors in which they covered 950 miles.



The rescue: Two children climbing out of their stalled cable car into a rescue box after being trapped for several hours.

120 spend night on high wire

Bellinzona, Switzerland (AP) - About 120 passengers descending from the 6,471 ft Mt Tamaro were trapped in 30 blocked cable cars for up to 12 hours before the last were freed early yesterday in a spectacular rescue operation.

Police said no one was injured. Rescuers from the Swiss Alpine Club, lowered from helicopters on ropes or hoisting themselves from cable car to cable car after climbing up via supporting pylons, freed most by lowering the passengers to the ground in nets, one by one. Others were picked up directly by helicopters. Fire ladders were used in evacuating those trapped in cars closer to the ground.



The relief: A child rescued from one of the 30 stalled cable cars reunited with his father.

Attack on Angola deplored by UK

Britain yesterday condemned South African incursions into Angola and the bombing of the headquarters there of the Namibian nationalist movement, Swapo.

The Foreign Office issued a statement deploring the action, saying: "We have repeatedly condemned violence in South Africa, from whichever quarter it comes, and we supported the recent Security Council resolution calling for the withdrawal of South African forces from Angolan territory."

"We therefore cannot but deplore this latest South African action, and regret the loss of life which has resulted. We believe that the withdrawal of South African troops, and indeed of all foreign troops, from Angola, would improve the prospects for a peaceful independence settlement in Namibia."

Mr Robert Hughes, Labour

MP for Aberdeen North and Chairman of the Anti-Apartheid Movement, called on the Government to consider withdrawing the British Ambassador from Pretoria as a protest at South Africa's military action.

He has also sent a telegram on behalf of the movement to Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, urging him to summon the South African Ambassador in London to the Foreign Office for an official protest.

● BONN: West Germany yesterday expressed "deep concern" over South Africa's action and repeated a call for the immediate withdrawal of South African forces (Reuters reports).

"The Government notes with deep concern that Pretoria in recent days has not only continued its military actions but intensified them," a Foreign Ministry statement said.

Germans usher in new year with cable TV network

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

Tomorrow morning at 10.30, to the introduction of Handel's Firework Music, West Germany's first private television station begins broadcasting. About 1,000 homes in Ludwigshafen, Chancellor Helmut Kohl's home town, will be able to tune in to the first experimental cable television network in this country.

After bitter and still unresolved argument, much of it along party political lines, Bonn has given the go-ahead for a pilot project which ends the monopoly of the two publicly controlled networks. Although the response so far in this industrial town on the Rhine has been distinctly cool - falling well below the expected 30,000 viewers thought necessary to test the concept - state governments, advertisers, television executives and newspapers will be watching the programmes keenly and evaluating the response.

Five years ago the prime ministers of the federal states agreed to test cable television in four cities, and the post office began laying cables in Ludwigshafen and in Munich, Dortmund and West Berlin where broadcasts will also begin later.

Commercial television as such does not exist in this country, and has long been a touchy topic. The two public networks, ARD and ZDF, building on the basis and tradition of the first television broadcasting set up with the help of the British in Hamburg in 1952, are carefully balanced in the political allegiances of their editors and senior executives.

Social Democrats, fearing the influence of powerful Conservative media magnates, have long opposed any change in the present set-up. They have given warnings that commercial broadcasting would develop in the way it has in America. The Christian Democrats, however, want greater competition in the airwaves and have championed cable television. Significantly it is in Rhineland-Palatinate, a CDU-

ruled land that the first experiment is to begin.

Chancellor Kohl will not be among those able to tune in to the first experimental cable television network in this country. There will be no special ceremony for the start of the experiment, which is under the aegis of the specially created City Cable Communication Authority.

The copper cables have a 24-channel capacity, but although hundreds of interest groups applied to make programmes, the pilot project will be confined to one channel and most programmes will be supplied by a Frankfurt cable and satellite company.

Tomorrow's broadcasts will include a documentary, *Hansel and Gretel*, a puppet film with the singer Engelbert Humperdinck, and 10-minute news broadcasts produced by the editorial team of the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*.

The newspaper has contracted to supply news from its correspondents for four daily broadcasts. The company will also provide during its evening broadcasts two feature films, a cartoon and music each day.

During the rest of the daily cable will carry music compiled specially for ZDF, educational programmes from the south-west regional ARD channel, broadcasts by local religious groups and schools and even what the City Cable Authority has called an "open channel" allowing ordinary citizens access to the air - though viewer interest is likely to be limited.

Ludwigshafen has also made arrangements to receive broadcasts from British-based English-language satellite television. Sky Channel, owned by the Murdoch group, to begin broadcasting.

The Frankfurt company will spend over 100m marks (£25m) on programmes in the coming year, though it expects only a very meagre return at first. Advertising will bring in virtually nothing from Ludwigshafen.

Berlin rail transfer deal signed

From Our Own Correspondent Berlin

The agreement transferring ownership and control of the West Berlin section of the city's S-Bahn (elevated urban railway) from the East German Reichsbahn was signed in East Berlin yesterday by the East German Minister of Transport and a member of the West Berlin Senate.

The agreement, endorsed by the Western allies because it does not impinge on wider questions of the status of Berlin transfers 90 miles of track to the control of the West Berlin Transport Authority on January 9. Immediate cuts will be made in the loss-making service, at present operating over only 47 miles of track.

Dr Richard von Weizsäcker, the Chief Burgomaster of West Berlin, welcomed the agreement as an important event for Berlin and for East-West relations.

Pershings 'ready for action'

Bonn (AP) - The first battery of Pershing 2 nuclear missiles in Western Europe is "ready for action", the West German Defence Ministry confirmed yesterday.

Police detained a small group of anti-missile protesters who attempted to block the parade of the US Army's Mutlangen base, near Stuttgart, where the nine medium range rockets are stationed.

Nato began deploying 372 Pershing 2 and cruise missiles in Western Europe after the Soviet Union suspended arms talks with the United States last month in Geneva.

The Atlantic alliance believes the missiles are needed to counter the Soviet build-up of medium range SS20 rockets in recent years. The faster, more accurate Pershing 2s are replacing the Pershing 1As in West Germany.

Acid leak sends poison cloud over Nuremberg

Nuremberg (AP) - Sixteen people, including six policemen, were taken to hospital yesterday after nitric acid leaking from a tanker lorry created a poison cloud on the east side of Nuremberg.

Between 30 and 40 people were temporarily evacuated from their homes and others in the affected area were told to shut all doors and windows. Firemen declared the danger to be over after three hours.

Among those taken to hospital were seven workers at the Staub chemical company, where the accident took place.

Nitric acid had leaked from one of the firm's tankers and combined with the air to form the cloud. Workers were trying to pump the liquid acid from one tanker to another when one of the tankers sprang the leak. Firemen dispersed the cloud by shooting water into the air.

The South African spy scandal

West fears leaks from secret Nato-link base

From Michael Hemsby, Johannesburg

The discovery that Commodore Dieter Gerhardt, former commander of the naval dockyard had been spying for the Soviet Union for the past 20 years was a deeply embarrassing, but also oddly reassuring, experience for the South African Government. This week he was convicted of treason by the Cape Supreme Court.

It was obviously worrying that Gerhardt and his Swiss-born wife, Ruth, who assisted him in his spying from the early 1970s onwards should for so long have eluded the vaunted detective powers of South Africa's feared intelligence manichee.

On the other hand, the case furnished welcome evidence to support Pretoria's belief (widely regarded abroad as exaggerated) that South Africa is a prime target of Soviet subversion because of its geographic minerals vital to the economies of the West.

But how much damage did Gerhardt do? The question is

difficult to answer, because the trial, which began on September 5, was held in *Cameru* throughout and details of the state's evidence have accordingly, not been made public.

The judge's edited version of his findings revealed only that Gerhardt, who is 48, had been employed by the Soviet Union since 1964, that he made five visits to Moscow between 1964 and his arrest in January this year (accompanied on two occasions by his wife) and that he transmitted military secrets to the Soviet Union.

Gerhardt, who joined the South African Navy 30 years ago, was one of four commandoes at Simonstown. He had been commander of the dockyard for three years. Before that he was on the technical staff at the South African Defence Force's headquarters in Pretoria.

Simonstown, which was used by Britain until the mid-1970s, is the most developed naval dockyard on the African coastline outside the Mediter-

anean. It is strategically located and has extensive repair, maintenance and construction facilities.

Gerhardt would have had an intimate knowledge of the activities of South Africa's small navy, including its three French-built *Daphne*-class submarines. It seems unlikely, however, that information about the movements of the South African fleet, which is largely confined to a coastal patrol role, could have held much interest for the Russians.

Far more serious, from the point of view of Western security, was the access Gerhardt may or may not have had to Silvermine, the secret maritime tracking station concealed under tons of reinforced concrete in a hillside between Cape Town and Simonstown.

South Africa's attempts to be openly accepted into the Western military block, notably through the creation of a South Atlantic Treaty Organization (Sato) to match Nato, have

repeatedly been rebuffed because of the country's race policies. But it has long had an unofficial, back-door association with Nato.

Much of the electronic equipment used at Silvermine, which was built about 10 years ago at a time of increasing Western concern about Soviet naval expansion, was furnished by Nato countries. There is a steady flow of intelligence between Pretoria and Western capitals.

It has been suggested that, though Silvermine, which carries out detailed, round-the-clock monitoring of all shipping movements in the South Atlantic and Indian oceans, Gerhardt could have passed the Russians information on the disposition of the British fleet during the Falklands conflict.

Others say, however, that the Russians would have had perfectly satisfactory independent means of finding this out. Another period in Gerhardt's career that has aroused interest

is the time he spent in Britain between 1956 and 1965 on four courses with the Royal Navy: a basic engineering course, a marine engineering specialists' course, an ordnance engineering course and a radio and weapons applications course.

He also served on a Type 12 frigate, HMS *Temby*, between September 1958 and April 1959 and would have been familiar with several British frigates which were sold to South Africa in the 1960s.

He was also briefly South Africa's naval attaché in London in 1968. He would undoubtedly have had knowledge of British ships and their armaments and equipment and had access to classified information.

Gerhardt's private life was clouded by tragedy. His first marriage ended in divorce and his son and one daughter moved to England. His other daughter died under the wheels of a train after writing poetry about suicide.

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Rajiv proves a success but Gandhi party fails to heal divisions

From Michael Hamlyn, Calcutta

Half a million Bengalis turned out yesterday to watch Mrs Indira Gandhi at the climax to her party's conference here. The brigade parade ground on the Calcutta maidan was a sea of blue-black hair to the point sight was lost in the crowd's own dust.

Mrs Gandhi in a white sari and shawl rode in triumph in an open Jeep to a towering dais draped in saffron while cheerleaders chanted: "Indira Gandhi Zindabad; Rajiv Gandhi Zindabad."

Two Cabinet ministers from West Bengal, Mr Pranab Mukherjee, the Finance Minister, and Mr G. K. Chowdhury, the Railways Minister, spoke but the crowd was anxious to hear Mr Rajiv Gandhi and his mother. He spoke for 10 minutes, she for the best part of an hour.

Both of them laid into the leftist Government of West Bengal. Mrs Gandhi made her now familiar plea to save the unity and integrity of the country, and added that the party's plenary session just ending showed how close the Congress workers were to the aspirations and ideals of the people of India.

At the end of the day she flew back to Delhi to consider the lessons of the conference and its implications for the future of her Government.

She expressed herself satisfied with the Calcutta session. "It was a good session," she said. But remembering when she had stalked up and down

the dais in a fury, trying to snatch a photographer's camera, and to force the rest of the audience to sit down, she added: "the enthusiasm of the young people made me lose my voice."

As she flew back in her Indian Air Force plane, she could have calculated the success and failure of the conference somewhat as follows.

On the credit side she was able to present her son as a credible, responsible politician, who could handle himself as well in front of a major conference audience or a crowd half a million strong as in the committee rooms and corridors of her administration.

There were constant unofficial reports during the conference that she was about to have him named as president of the party - a job she was given by her father when she first began to make her mark in Congress. No official announcement was made, however. When a reporter for *India Today*, a lively news magazine, asked how she would rate his performance, she snapped that she was not going to answer that type of question from his type of magazine. "Freedom of the press does not extend to anti-nationalism," she added, "and your magazine has been very anti-national at times."

The main achievement of the conference, however, has been to put forward Congress party programmes in a coherent and cogent way to a mass audience.

She has made it plain that her party stands for socialism and secularism, regaining some of the ground she lost earlier in the year when she was depicted as a champion of the Hindus against the minorities, and seizing the high lands on the left of her opposition.

She has managed to categorize her opponents either as rightists meaning the Bharatiya Janata Party plus the Lokdal or as unprincipled opportunists - the Janata-led United Front - or as threatening the unity of the country like the National Conference government of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Communists have simply been labelled incompetent, a charge that probably hurts more than an ideological attack, since they have prided themselves on giving a reasonably efficient administration to West Bengal.

On two areas she has not managed to make much impression. Very little progress has been made against the regional parties of the south.

Sidelong blows were struck against the Telugu Desam government in Andhra Pradesh which was accused of separatist tendencies, but no effort appeared to have been made in Tamil Nadu. Money was given for flood relief there, and generous things were said about the plight of the Tamils in Sri Lanka, but it is by no means yet clear who will be supporting whom in that state when the elections come.

Mr Wick: The practice denied, then admitted

Friend of Reagan in taping row

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

Mr Charles Wick, the accident-prone director of the United States Information Agency (USIA), has become embroiled in a new controversy - this time over his practice of secretly tape-recording his telephone calls.

According to a report in *The New York Times*, Mr Wick, apparently ignoring the lessons of the Nixon era, has been tape-recording his office telephone conversations with Government officials, his staff and friends for the past year without informing them they were being recorded.

Worse, when confronted by two *New York Times* journalists with evidence of his surreptitious activities, he initially denied the allegations.

Both the Senate foreign relations and House foreign affairs committees have announced they will conduct investigations into Mr Wick's taping.

Among those whose conversations were taped were Mr Walter Annenberg, former US Ambassador to London; Senator Mark Hatfield (Rep, Oregon); Mr Kenneth Adelman, Director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency; Mr Kirk Douglas, the actor; and Mr Caspar Weinberger Jr, the son of the Defence Secretary, who worked for the USIA last year.

It is not a crime under federal law or District of Columbia law for one party to tape-record a telephone conversation without telling the other.

The episode has embarrassed the White House because Mr Wick is a long-time show-business friend of President Reagan and spent Christmas Day with him. A White House spokesman said that although it did not approve of the surreptitious taping of telephone calls, the President did not want Mr Wick to resign.

Partners in fun

The Wizard of Oz

Churchill, Bromley

The two pantomime witches and their rhyming couplets rather took me by surprise, but without a dame, a song placard or other compliments to the panto season, *The Wizard of Oz* happily remains a real musical. Though it is best to put the film version temporarily from your mind, *The Wizard of Oz* is a witches take well to the stage - and Harold Arlen's songs like "Over the Rainbow" deserve the theatre, especially when sung with Celena Duncan's unaffected charm.

Miss Duncan, having first appeared as the same character in *The Wiz* - and how many actresses have achieved that double - would be perfect for a West End pocket musical next time a good one turns up. Her voice has an easy sweetness and her sense of fun finds happy partners in Paul Leonard's long suffering Scarecrow and Michael Waterman's Tin Man. Irresistibly cheerful even under the threat of rust.

Charlie Drake's Cowardly Lion is in a class, indeed a world, of its own. In a way he is misanthropic despite constant squeals of terror or paroxysms of shock caused by a jumping bunny-rabbit, the dour and truculent little Charlie we know is there underneath and at least one bogey got repelled with a gasping "Get out of it!" He tended to pick at and toy with his comic opportunities instead



Dreadlocked mane meets unaffected charm: Charlie Drake and Celena Duncan as the Lion and Dorothy.

of getting a move on, but at the sight of his dreadlocked mane and woolly orange suit like an armchair turned inside out, it is hard to keep a straight face.

In David Kelsey's production, the rival witches are more entertaining than the Wizard himself (rather a sell, with flashing lights behind a mask eventually disclosing an eccentric in Uncle Sam costume). Sipping tea from dainty china, Cynthia Morrey exudes inappreciable benignity while

Radio Danger for 4

This is the day for retrospects, a tradition I propose to ignore, however, because I think this year a prospect may be more appropriate - even if initially it goes no further than next Tuesday, when the evening changes to Radio 4 announced in October by its controller, David Hatch, come into operation.

These changes were previewed by David Hewson in *The Times* of October 19: briefly they consist of the deferment of Kaleidoscope until 9.45 pm (to allow it to go over first nights), the advancing of *A Book at Bedtime* to 10.15 pm (so that book and national average bedtime more nearly coincide) and the combining of *The World Tonight* and *The Financial World Tonight* into a single hour-long sequence at 10.30 - except on Fridays when it will last only 45 minutes to allow *Week Ending* a full half hour.

All this at first glance sounds moderate and well-intentioned. At the same time, in my manifestation as typical Radio 4 listener (ie, deeply neurotic about change), I cannot help but notice that two of its most obvious effects are to remove that useful 30-minute niche between 10.30 and 11 and to enlarge by 15 minutes the already sufficiently extensive empire of news and current affairs. I shall be alone in questioning the sense of this: if there is one thing the network's callers and correspondents have made clear, it is that more news is the last thing they feel a need of.

Of course next week's changes are only a beginning and if what is to happen there looks as broad as long, plans for later in the year may not balance gains and losses quite so well. Here I am not referring to Mr Hatch's intention to rest certain old stagers (*Down Year*, *Way*, *Desert Island Discs*, *Gardeners' Question Time*) for a compulsory six weeks a year. That sounds to me like a net gain for listeners: not only should these programmes return to work refreshed, but their short absence will offer opportunities to try out new material which, in spite of all our prejudices, we might even come to appreciate. Fears that all this is but the thin end of a wedge that will turn into an axe for *Desert Island Discs* and co. seem to me unfounded.

No, the item we shall all need to watch with serious attention is scheduled for some time in April. It is the "Rollercoaster", in other words a seamless sequence occupying the Radio 4 morning between 9 am and midday. This is to be tried out one morning a week for a limited period and we are promised that its future will depend on what the listeners, have to say about it.

The aim of this part of the enterprise is to counteract a tendency to switch off in the mornings which we now demonstrate in rather larger numbers than Mrs Hatch and her men find tolerable. Obviously it is the job of any network controller to attract as many listeners to every part of his output as he possibly can, but there are several things to be said about this particular suggestion for achieving it.

First, Radio 4 aims for a discriminating listenership and that necessarily involves not only turning on, but turning off as well. Second, the rollercoaster format, which will retain bits of the current output, suggests that there will be as little as possible that anybody might dislike (ie, potential switch-off points) between any of it.

This sounds to me in style despiteably akin to what Radio 1 and many of the local stations are doing now and I find it promotes the most rapid switching off imaginable. At the same time the seamless sequence is a kind of broadcasting which, in fact, seems to attract and hold a very large number of people, so there is a real chance that it will reverse the switch-off habit. And if it does, what then? Will there not be a temptation to extend it to two mornings, then to three, four, maybe all five? If that were to happen it might be very good for audience figures, but whether it would be good for broadcasting is another matter.

I think we need to take heed: a happy 1984 for Radio 4 devotees may well depend off how keenly we all listen and how persistently and cogently we all speak up.

David Wade

Tough ally of Australian Liberals quits politics

From Douglas Aiton, Melbourne

One of the most forceful personalities in Australian politics for the last two decades, Mr Douglas Anthony is to resign both from Parliament and the leadership of the right-wing National Party.

Mr Anthony is 54 today and has been an MP for 26 years. The National Party, formerly the Country Party, is the traditional coalition party with the Liberals now in opposition to Mr Bob Hawke's Labour Government.

Mr Anthony has long been identified as the most effective anti-socialist parliamentarian in the House and has been noticeably quiet since Labour assumed office last March. He is a wealthy pastoralist from northern New South Wales and his father was a prominent conservative politician.

He is the epitome of the suburban, staunchly conserva-



Mr Anthony: Epitome of the suburban Australian

five Australian man of the land. He has served as Deputy Prime Minister to Mr Harold Holt, Mr John Gorton and Mr Malcolm Fraser. His annual ritual was to stand in for successive prime ministers during the summer and run the country's affairs from his seaside holiday caravan.

Autonomy deal put to Tamils

From Donovan Moldrich, Colombo

President Jayewardene has circulated a 14-point proposal to solve the problems of the Tamil minority community among leaders of eight main political parties. They include the Tamil United Liberation Front, which will hold a series of discussions on the plan in Colombo from January 10 to January 20.

The basic feature of the plan involves the abandonment of a separate state, but provision is made for regional autonomy by the merger of district development councils in a province if such a merger is the wish of the councils.

In provinces which opt for a merger the leader of the largest political party will be designated chief minister

Bringing the house down

Dick Whittington

Richmond

Whatever the difficulties inflicted on it elsewhere, pantomime has a safe home in Richmond, and this show needs no recommendation to the theatre's past customers. The obvious strength of the Triumph Apollo operation is to recruit a company of Paladium-sized names and let them loose in a community house. But the formula could easily backfire without the writer-director collaboration of John Morley and Roger Redfern - two pantomime specialists who know how to bend the rules without breaking them, and evoke a genuine sense of good fellowship from the old routines.

These all crop up in the show, as do some of the gags that have been going the rounds on other stages. But when Mr Morley

brings in the haunted bedroom he springs some real shocks; when he holds a cookery lesson, the batter goes into unexpected places; and when he includes a black theatre ballet it is to show, the rais stowing away on the Gaudy Sea and to allow the

Good Fairy a perky little number on the sea-bed. The story is well told, while being thoroughly scrambled into the glorious mishmash of stand-up comedy, extravaganzas, topicalities and audience contact in which panto so often comes to grief.

The unchallenged master of ceremonies is Roy Hudd's Idle Jack, flashing his teeth over an inexhaustible succession of bumptious smocks. He is as good value when he sinks into character under the Rat Queen's spell, as when he is dominating the house with basketfuls of free food.

The production is never afraid of playing straight. June

Whitfield's Good Fairy is exactly that, however much her eyes may glaze over at some of Mr Morley's couplets. Her villainous opposite number is played in fine tacking form by Honor Blackman.

It is also good to see Geraldine Gardner, having succumbed to Dick Whittington in *Poppa*, now reviving him with more charm and quick thinking than I have seen from any other principal boy. Faced with yesterday's audience of bashful children, Miss Gardner settled for a middle-aged husband and played a straight-faced juvenile routine that brought the house down. Other pleasures include veteran Richard Murdoch's *Much Binding at London Bridge*, and John Hanson playing full-throated court to a throne room full of *Desert Song* hours for riding his palace of rats.

Anthony Masters

Figueiredo rejects direct election of successor

From Our Correspondent, São Paulo

President Joao Figueiredo of Brazil has rejected proposals that his successor to take over in March 1985 should be chosen by direct popular vote.

In an end-of-year message to the nation he said that the system of indirect elections for the presidency through an electoral college, enshrined in the 1964 constitution after a military takeover, was perfectly legitimate.

The President's statement came as the main opposition party, the Brazilian Democratic Movement (PMDB), launched a national crusade for a return to direct voting for the presidency, last exercised in 1960.

Opposition politicians are hoping that events in Argentina will give impetus to Brazil's faltering progress towards full democracy.

The fact that Señor Raul Alfonsín was directly elected by popular vote to the Argentine

presidency is causing pressure in Brazil to build up for the same to happen here.

Señor Alfonsín, who attended the March inauguration of the PMDB Governor of São Paulo State, Senator Franco Montoro, has been viewed by virtually the entire PMDB leadership in recent weeks.

The new Argentine President's recipe for curbing his country's 400 per cent inflation - twice Brazil's - by freezing prices. And, after raising them,

freezing wages, is being watched with great interest, even though most economists feel it would not work here.

Señor Figueiredo announced in his end-of-year message that Brazil would honour its debts, the highest in the developing world.

Some opposition leaders are hoping that Brazil's severe economic difficulties will lead to popular rejection of armed forces rule, as happened in Argentina.

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Chile police hose women from streets

Santiago (Reuters) - Police used water cannon to disperse groups of chanting women protesting on the streets of Santiago against Chile's military Government.

The demonstrators had gathered on Thursday night after a rally by thousands of women at a theatre in the capital. They briefly held up traffic outside the theatre, singing and chanting anti-Government slogans, before the police dispersed them. No arrests or injuries were reported.

The rally, supported by almost every opposition women's group, featured singing, poetry, slide shows and calls for an immediate return to democracy. The theatre's capacity of more than 5,000 was filled to overflowing with women of all ages and from all social classes.

Electricity blackout: Four bomb attacks on power lines and electricity pylons blacked out parts of Santiago and central Chile on Thursday night for the second time in two weeks, police said yesterday.

Seven of the country's 13 regions, where more than half Chile's 11 million people live, were affected. In the last week there have also been two shooting attacks on policemen and a bomb was planted on the main railway line to the south.

A group calling itself the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front sent journalists a statement claiming responsibility for earlier bomb attacks.

Union Court ruling: Chile's Supreme Court has ruled that union officials dismissed by the state-owned copper corporation Codelco can still stand for reelection. The decision is widely seen as a boost for the present anti-Government leadership of the Confederation of Copper Workers.

Concert

predictable. So, in "The Running of Shindad", for instance, Grainger's "Caruso-like" clinging Roman tone was not, thank goodness, taken literally, and the nice equivocation within "The Queen's peace over all, dear ones", could be played with without being sent up.

Grainger's skittish "There was a pig went out to dig" contained more than one line which those who once listened with Mother never heard: its buoyancy and sprightly articulation were balanced in the first half by anonymous ballads from the twelfth to sixteenth centuries such as "Good-day my Lord Sir Christinas" and the heady, sprung rhythms of a Spanish drinking song by Juan del Encina.

In such company, Roland de Lassus with his 10-minute nativity narrative and even Schubert with Mignon's "Schnuck" and still more drinking songs, seemed a little long-winded. But the Ensemble propelled them on their way with characteristic energy and idiomatic artistry.

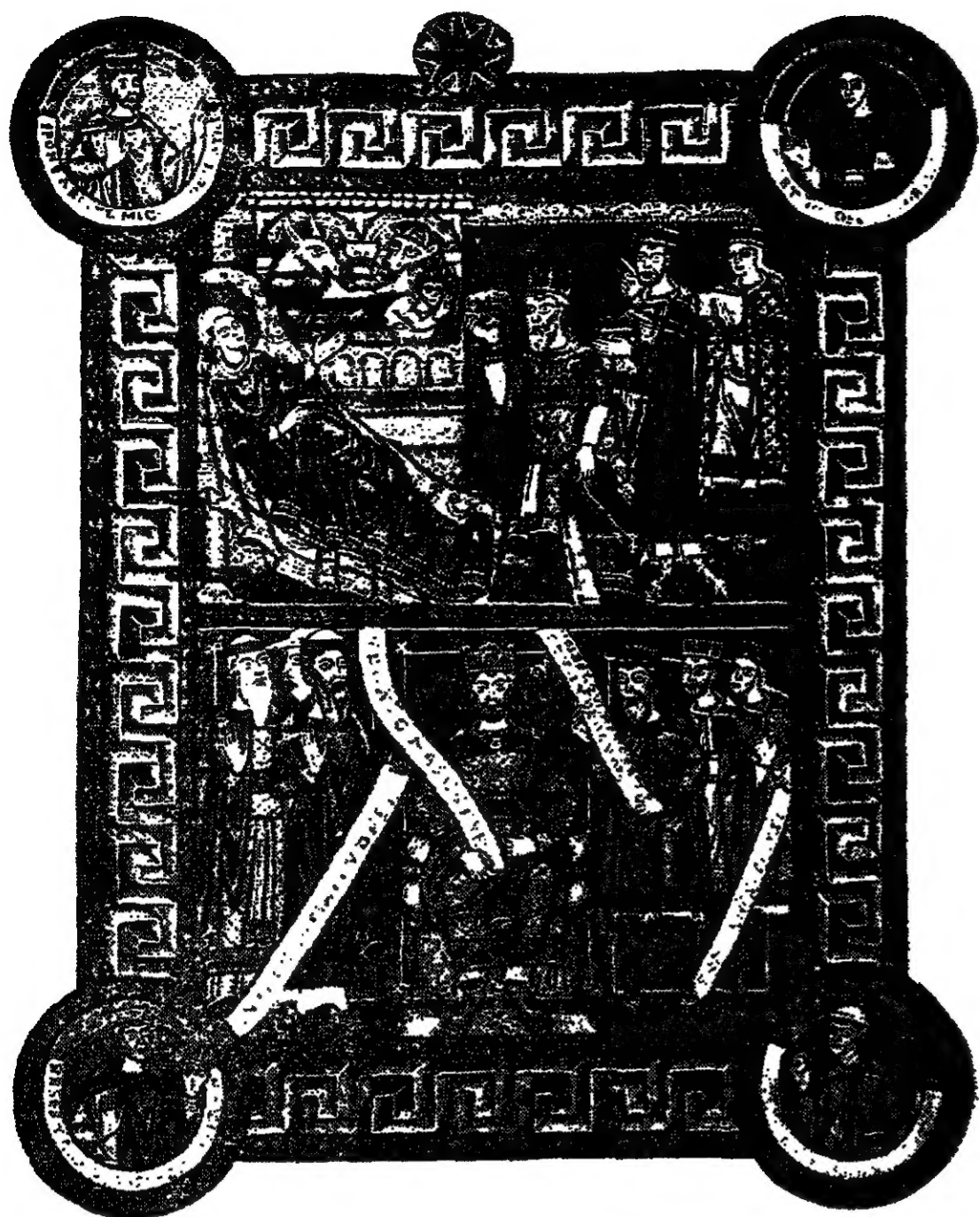
Hilary Finch

Hilliard Ensemble

There may have been punch in the interval on Thursday but "Songbooks", a new year's entertainment by the six-part male-voice Hilliard Ensemble, was by no means all cakes and ale.

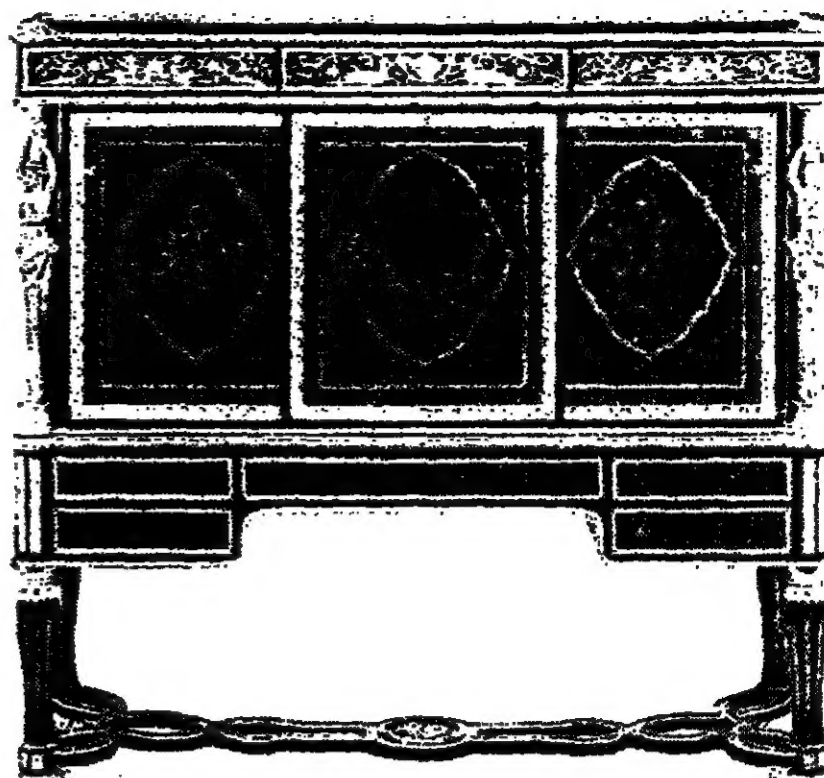
The strange grey hinterland

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One of fifty-one full page miniatures from the Gospel Book made for Henry the Lion, Duke of Saxony, at Helmshausen Abbey c. 1175. It is among the finest works of art from medieval Germany. Sold on 6th December 1983 for £8,140,000, a world record price for any object sold at auction.



A FRENCH ROYAL CABINET

The highly important Louis XVI secrétaire à abattant attributed to Adam Weisweiler and delivered for the Cabinet du Roi at Versailles. Sold on 8th July 1983, it reached a world auction record for any piece of furniture of £990,000.



THE HAVEMEYER COLLECTION

"L'Attente," by Degas, was the most valuable picture sold from this famous collection. The whole sale which included the Havemeyer Collection and other Impressionist and Modern Paintings, was held in New York on 18th May 1983 and realised over £23 million, a world record total for a single auction.



A MILANESE THREE-QUARTER ARMOUR

Made for Henri II, King of France (regn. 1547-1559) by Giovanni Paolo Negrolì, c. 1540-1545, the most famous armourer of his period. Sold on 5th May 1983 as part of the Hever Castle Collection for £1,925,000, a world record not only for armour but for any item of decorative art.

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SPORTING
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stars

The England cricket touring party lined up to go to Fiji, New Zealand and Pakistan last week looking as if they were really going to Krypton, Perelandra and the Horse Head's Nebula. Somehow their shiny silver astronaut jackets do not seem quite right for the game WG played. Happily, the Starship Enterprise ultra-lightweight blouses, (that is apparently the correct term) are not the official tour uniform. The lads will wear Burton blazers with a George and Dragon badge for the photograph when they stand with their hands behind their backs. The Silver Surfer outfits are strictly non-compulsory.

Moral losers

That promising third division footballer, I. T. Botham, has been getting rapped over the knuckles for his behaviour lately. Football referees and men in authority in some other sport keep telling him off. But their problems are as nothing when compared with the disciplinary dramas of the Tunisian football team. Four players, including the captain, Tarek Dhiab, were banned for their behaviour in the Mediterranean Games; a week later, the entire team was suspended. The crimes were "lack of effort" and "lack of morals".

Dire choice

David Gower has been getting in the mood for the Fijian stage of the tour by going into Radio 4's *Desert Island Discs* studio. The results will be heard on February 14. He revealed an electric taste - Handel and Elton John, as well as a band who should have composed an anthem for England's last tour: Dire Straits.

BARRY FANTONI



"At least they get you used to wearing a hearing aid"

Game of the name

There is always a touch of the Irish in National Hunt racing, but was Ladbrokes going too far with its race card competition on Boxing Day, the day of the King George VI Chase at Kempton? To win the prize, a portable television, three questions on past winners of the King George had to be answered. The same race card carried on the inside cover exhaustive details of every winner since 1938. Perhaps the only question missing was: after whom is the King George VI Chase named?

Is this the ultimate honour for the Yorkshire whizz kid trainer Michael Dickinson? At Kempton on Boxing Day he was buried beneath a locusts swarm of autograph seekers, everyone of them twice his age.

Money matters

The president of Inter-Milan football club, Ivano Fraizzoli, commenting on allegations by the Dutch club, Groningen, that the Dutch coach was offered £55,000 to fix a UEFA Cup match between the two clubs said: "It's a pack of lies. Anyway, how could you hope to buy an entire team with such a small amount?"

Sack record

Some people consider that Peter Carey was prematurely sacked as manager of the Tottenham Hotspur side, Barking, 48 hours before what would have been one of the greatest days of his career, an FA Cup tie against third-division club, Plymouth Argyle. But Carey could undoubtedly take it in his stride; he holds the world record for the shortest-ever managerial career. He was boss of Chelmsford City for 20 minutes. It is in the *Guinness Book of Records*. He never went near Chelmsford's ground, either. He was offered the job on the telephone by a new board of directors, and promptly accepted. The directors then discovered they did not have the authority they thought they had. So they called Carey back and gave him the push.

Nightmare

Richard Greenwood, the England rugby coach with a 100 per cent record (1 out of 1) had a pudding-induced nightmare over Christmas, and dreamt that next weekend's England trial game had somehow become confused with American football. The air was filled with incomprehensible codes, everyone fell over, and Greenwood awoke in a cold sweat. Meanwhile the England captain, Peter Wheeler, his thumb in plaster and unable to turn out for his club, Leicester, against the Barbarians last week, was given the job of press steward instead. That's a very serious incentive to get match fit again.

Simon Barnes

Are we helping to fulfil George Orwell's prophecies?

Shadow of the Thought Police

by Neil Kinnock

Nineteen Eighty-Four was satire, not prophecy. Orwell was cautioning against complacency towards dictatorships, small or great, plutocratic or plutobureaucratic. He was exposing, by exaggeration, tendencies and potentials already present and capable of development. He was sounding an alarm - repeated in his essays of the period - about the consequences which the new atom bomb could have for relationships and resources across the world.

If the satire has an edge of prophecy it is because some of Orwell's caps come uncomfortably close to fitting heads today.

Orwell, whatever the tom-robbers say, was a radical democratic socialist, a fierce libertarian, a patriot for the decency which he sometimes sought to nourish in Britain.

The combination of qualities made him willing to deal with the realization that progress was not automatic and that, for the first time in two centuries, it was reasonable to acknowledge that the future could be worse than the past. Mankind had the mentality and the means to make it so. That was the warning in Orwell's pessimistic parody.

When coupled with old-age ruthlessness, the brand-new technologies of communication, persuasion, organization and destruction could, he knew, produce power more absolute than anything previously known. So much was - and is - obvious. The assiduous barbarities of modern dictatorship prove it.

At that level, *Nineteen Eighty-Four* is a plain indictment of totalitarianism that can be applauded by any freedom-lover. But at another level Orwell's book becomes different in quality and importance from a shelf-full of other chronicles of repression. It is a parable of the way in which "power as an end, not a means" is installed and sustained in the political state and in any institution where minorities wield authority over majorities.

Fear is certainly the key to such power. But physical coercion is not enough to keep whole generations in check - the most that it can do is gain unstable, sullen submission. To be secure, even absolute power needs the compliance of the multitude. To be enduring in its control over people, imposed power needs convention, horror of non-conformity, dread of being out of step in deed, word and - ultimately - in thought. And it is that which Orwell reported in 1984 in order to encourage resistance to creeping acquiescence.

Being Orwell he naturally put the major obligation for resistance on



his own class - the intelligentsia of the Outer Party - even while invariably regarding them as spineless spongers. And, true to form too, he believed that "if there was hope, it lay in true proletarian even though the confidence was purely sentimental."

As they rewrite *The Times* and falsified history, Winston Smith and his companions in the Ministry of Truth were all caricatures of intellectuals who, in their brain and bones, know better, but stick to their positions rather than their convictions. Orwell must have taken mischievous delight in contriving their literary liquidation. Duplicity could clearly not save them when the System decided they were dispensable - or "redundant" as more modern parlance has it.

The proles, meanwhile, were rarely bothered by Thought Police or telly screens. They had "films, in thought, And it is that which Orwell reported in 1984 in order to encourage resistance to creeping acquiescence."

The sole, self-perpetuating reason for the existence of "Oligarchical Collectivism", the political regime of Oceania, is the maintenance of the status quo. The whole edifice of organized hate, of continual shortage and of social paralysis has at its base the "burning off" of "the surplus value" by military expenditure which, Emmanuel Goldstein's testament explains, preserves the existing elites and prevents the abolition of poverty.

The question for us now in 1984 is not "have we reached *Nineteen Eighty-Four*." We plainly have not and we never will, any more than anyone has ever lived in Lilliput or Brobdingnag. The question must be "what elements in our current condition give substance to the satire of Orwell?" The answer cannot be comforting.

In the political and economic divisions of the planet, in the still enduring demarcations of social class, in the prejudices and the dictatorial fads of the goodthink and badthink of our time, in the structures of press ownership, in a state which is being reduced as a source of care and opportunity while being extended as a means of control, the trends and dispositions that provoked Orwell's warnings still exist. Worse, they are stronger than they should be in a thriving democracy. Let alone one that produced George Orwell.

In this world of starving nations and deadlocked empires the parody is too plausible for comfort, even though we have thankfully not experienced the historical acceleration of nuclear war that gave the people of Airstrip One the Big Brother age.

In that and most other respects our 1984 is not *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, of course. But when so much is dedicated in the modern world to the build up of weaponry and psyche and when domestic and foreign policies are guided so largely by negative reactions to other blocks and so little by positive efforts to develop economies and elevate societies, the warfare state is still nearer than it would be.

In the age of the SS20 and Pershing, the control of relationships and opinions are better-organized by a variety of smooth and savage means than ever before. And the stockpiles of the states, collective and capitalist, go on mounting up.

Those similarities would not have surprised Orwell. The veteran of *Down and Out* knew the state of magistrates, magicians, "the spike" means test, the police and the colonial administration at least as well as he knew the state of Stalin and Hitler. The latter attracted his undiluted venom. The former provoked his bitter mistrust. He knew that if it was not upheld by confident, vigilant, active citizens, ostensible democracy could be routed by the abuse of public authority, or by economic insecurity, or by arrogant order-givers and compliant order-takers.

The question for us now in 1984 is not "have we reached *Nineteen Eighty-Four*." We plainly have not and we never will, any more than anyone has ever lived in Lilliput or Brobdingnag. The question must be "what elements in our current condition give substance to the satire of Orwell?" The answer cannot be comforting.

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"Don't let it happen," he said. "It depends on you. And you, and you. The author is Leader of the Labour Party."

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A new avenue for the architects

Suresh Karand

Mr Michael Manser has made it his mission as president of the Royal Institute of British Architects to attack our planning laws which, he maintains, inhibit and stifle the production of good modern architecture.

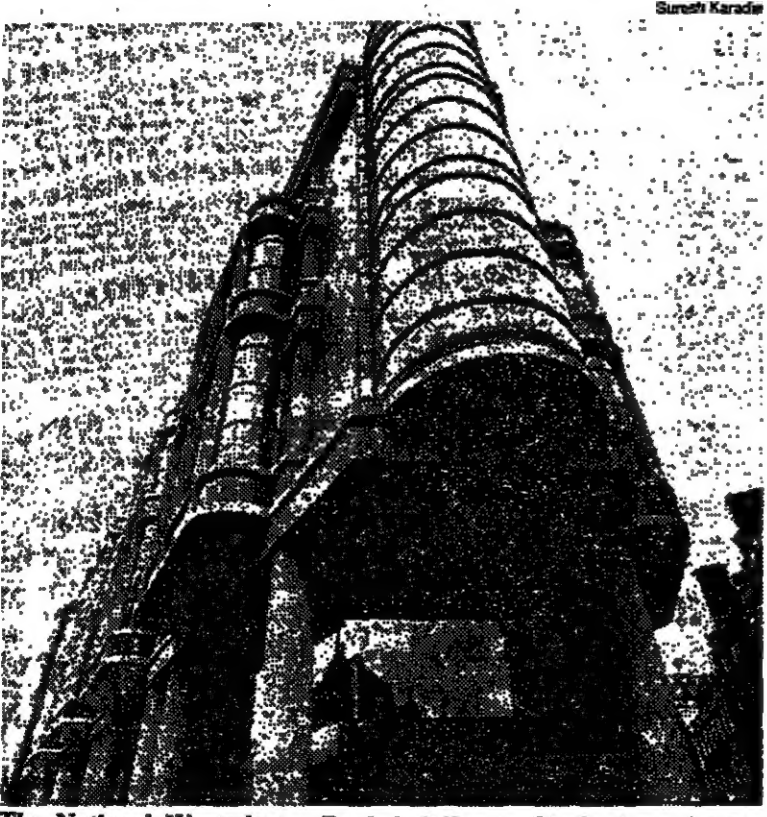
I disagree. The architecture of the last 45 years would have been even worse without control. Mr Manser, like most architects, is reluctant to accept that our present planning laws are the democratic expression of widespread public revulsion to what the Modern Movement effortlessly achieved in the 1950s and 1960s.

Architects are now being obliged to respect and to respond to individual sites and, as a result, are beginning to rediscover all those once-commonplace devices which gave visual interest and human scale to buildings, but which were proscribed for decades by the strict, puritan canons of the Modern Movement.

Cut through in the 1880s as a traffic improvement, Shaftesbury Avenue has always been lined with mediocre buildings and the chief interest of the street lies in its sinuous course. The existing buildings in the street do, however, have the virtue of consistency of scale combined with variety in colour and texture. The three new buildings respect this urban character without opening themselves to the charge of being pastiche.

The largest of the new buildings is part of a long-running controversy, the redevelopment of Piccadilly Circus. The site, which housed the Trocadero Restaurant off Shaftesbury Avenue, has now been largely rebuilt as a complex of shops and restaurants. Many of the existing buildings have been retained while new facades have appeared.

These new facades, identical in style, are the work of those very professional commercial architects, Fitzroy Robinson & Partners. The Shaftesbury Avenue facade is given depth and subtlety by having a structure of painted metal poles and panels which stand proud of the large first-floor windows which light the restaurants behind.



The National Westminster Bank building in Shaftesbury Avenue: traditional bay windows mixed with modern bronze metal

The skyline is given interest by modelling the flat metal parapet into a type of battlement with flagpoles, and the whole facade does something which seemed quite impossible a few years back: it actually bends to follow the line of the street. The result is a building which is lively and of a clearly modern, vaguely "high tech" character, but which fits into the street.

Over the road is a more distinguished essay in this manner: the block housing a new National Westminster Bank office designed by Powell & Moya, a firm usually associated with university buildings. Again this block is clearly modern. The structure, of hammered concrete, is expressed externally and the intervening spaces are filled with glass and bronze metal. But again,

the facade is given depth and interest by the old and excellent device of the bay window, and the architects clearly appreciated that the building will always be seen at an angle.

Another happy device exploits the acute corner with Deanman Street. Here is a feature which has its origins in both the heroic pioneer days of the Modern Movement, and which yet recalls a Victorian corner treatment: a curved glass wall enclosing a circular staircase which rises almost the whole height of the building. This adds that often bogus element of "excitement" with which modern architects always justify their work, but it comes within a design which is sober, rational and - again - in harmony with its neighbours. Sir Philip Powell and

his team have designed one of the best modern buildings in London.

Further up Shaftesbury Avenue, however, is an example of what happens when an architect responds to planning controls in a cynical rather than a constructive spirit. Enough has now risen of the new fire station block opposite the Palace Theatre to appreciate the character of the design.

It has a red brick wall with dull windows arranged between projecting string-courses, and its long length is relieved only by half-hearted projecting bays. At the corners, this vaguely Tudor style expresses itself in feeble turrets, supported on cantilevered-out concrete bases which, maddeningly, do not correspond with the line of the concrete linted above.

This design, which makes a minimal concession to the notion of responding to the Victorian character of Shaftesbury Avenue, is the work of Richard Sieffert & Partners, a firm celebrated for its ability to take full advantage of the planning laws, and whose production encompasses every style fashionable since the last war. Sometimes Sieffert's modern work is good, as with Centre Point, but now that a degree of traditionalism is the order of the day, he has produced a grudging and cynical essay in a sort of "post-Modernism".

Even this practice has its virtues, however. It follows the concave line of the street; it uses a mellow red brick (though Colcutt's Theatre over the road shows how broad masses of brick are better relieved with terracotta) and there is some attempt to give the facade a more varied character.

Michael Manser maintains that "essential freedom of expression [is] now denied and our street scenes are beginning to look dull and lifeless for its lack." Pace Mr Manser, these three new buildings are responses to the planning laws and the present climate in favour of conservatism, and they have greatly enhanced Shaftesbury Avenue as a street. And two out of the three make me optimistic about the state of the art of architecture.

Gavin Stamp

There's life in the old idiom yet

New words and new meanings by Philip Howard

English idiom is changing all the time; which must be one of the *raison d'être* for this occasional series. At the same time much English idiom is remarkably durable, and older than we think. This was dramatised for anybody who went to see *The Relapse*, or *Virtue in Danger* by Sir John Vanbrugh at the Lyric Hammersmith. Apart from the pleasure of the extraordinary vowel sound of Simon Callow turning Sir Novelty Fashion, newly created Lord Poppington, into one of the comic roles of the English stage, one sat up all the time with a start to hear a catch phrase or an idiom that sounded too modern for a piece written in the seventeenth century.

"Virtue is its own reward," says somebody, sententiously. "That's funny," one muses. "I should have guessed Dickens, or one of the other Victorian moralists as the originator

of that smug platitude." So one looks it up, and discovers that it is far older than Vanbrugh. It is recorded in English in 1509 in Barclay's *Ship of Fools*: "Virtue hath no reward." But you can take it back 15 centuries earlier than that. Ovid (who else?) *Præsum sibi virtus*, or, as we say in the track, "Virtue is its own reward." Vanbrugh was using a proverbial cliché with molts and rust on.

A bit later in the *Relapse* somebody says: "That's thinking half-seas over", and we sit up again. In this case Vanbrugh was one of the earliest to use the phrase metaphorically in a transferred sense. But half-seas over had been around as a literal idiom for a century and a half before that. Raleigh himself, that great half-seas over seadog, used it,

when he wrote of sailors riding it out at anchor, "half-seas over between England and Ireland."

A little later, in the *Relapse*, one of those seventeenth-century comedians remarks: "So, matters go swimmingly." You could still say, "Oh, things are going swimmingly" today, without sounding hopelessly old-fashioned. So you look it up, and discover that things had been going swimmingly long before Vanbrugh used it as contemporary slang in his play, which means that fashionable people had been using the vogue commendatory adverb for even longer, before anybody thought of writing it down. It is not the case that there is nothing new under the sun in language. But slang is often older than it seems.

"I don't mind if I do!" which

Tommy Handley turned into a raging catch phrase in *Itina*, was actually a revival of a saying that had been around since circa 1700. The criminal and disaffected classes had been calling police officers "pigs" for two centuries before the young of the Demonstration Generation rediscovered the slang in the 1960s.

"My feet are killing me" is at least a century old. "I'll have your guts for garters" may sound like a twentieth-century coinage by a sergeant-major. It has a long literary history, going back at least to Robert Greene's *James the Fourth*, 1598: "I'll make garters of thy guts, thou villain."

We are continually using what we think are new words for old. But quite often they are not as new as we suppose.

Julie Davidson

A guilty first foot
in familiar Fenland

They will not be dancing in the streets of Alba tonight. But grimly, desperately like a band of crusaders cursed with a cause they can't deny, they will still be seeking the holy grail of hogmanay. Thousands will come home for it, millions will wait up for it, and most will lift the precious chalice to their lips and taste a bitter brew - predominantly alcoholic but tainted with the gall of failed expectations.

The Scottish New Year isn't what it used to be. The traditions of domestic renewal of warmth of the extended family. First foots go by car now, edgily, feeling the pant of the breathalyser on their necks. In their sheltered houses old ladies sit up until three in the morning waiting to offer sweet sherry and black buns to visitors who never come, and the midnight crowds who gather in the city squares are young and dangerous and old and homeless. The bells have a hollow ring. The grail has the look of base metal. At least so they tell us. As Scots living in Scotland we ought to know, but sniffing the way the wind was blowing we cancelled hogmanay six years ago and ever since have sneaked over the border on December 31 to raid the English for some seasonal optimism.

We don't just go to England. We go to the opposite end and the other extreme. We abandon our bumpy little country with its manic depressive landscape, its peaks and its troughs and its spiky historical topography for the linear province of East Anglia. We take measured strides across the Norfolk steppes, where the drinking and the thinking is as slow and practical as dyke water and where the land is deceptively stable, like a flat calm before a tidal wave. This will be our seventh hogmanay in the Fens, our seventh midnight watch spent below the level of the sea in the company of fair friends and strange fowl.

At dusk the huge, blowy fenland skies shred themselves into flakes of feather and the bewicks and the whoopers and the mute swans sidleslip over the cottage and into the Wildfowl Trust's refuge at Welney. At midnight when we open the door to the new year, the woeful honking of geese sounds a reproach. We, too, are refugees from the north, making an allegory of our journey. We have exchanged (to paraphrase the parable) the narrow, difficult path to Scots damnation for the broad and easy road to English salvation.

We have swapped firewater for

log fires, pub crawls for country walks and hangersover for hearty breakfasts. We have traded the folk memories of Flodden for the cooperative lore of the Fens and rejected a lost land for a reclaimed one. Sometimes on the flight south we leave the A697 and the car and climb a clay path to Branton Hill, where, four centuries ago, the English and Scots soldiers cast off their shoes to grip the slope. This turnip field is Flodden Field and the granite cross at its crest says simply: "To the Brave of Both Nations". We salute one as we desert the other.

There are few signposts to allegory on the A1. The monstrous cooling towers of Ferrybridge, perhaps, before the land begins to sort itself into the orderly contours of the south. England, unlike Scotland, conceals itself from its arterial roads and the Fens conceal themselves even more cleverly, their character camouflaged by flatness. The road from Wisbech, in the dark, is a glimmer of light on geometrical water and now and then the sudden solid shape of unnatural river banks.

This year the subtle landscape has a literary topicality. "And what are the Fens, which so imitate in their levelness the natural disposition of water, but a landscape which of all landscapes most approximates to Nothing?" In *Warwick's Grammar* Swift has thus described the view from the rear of the cottage, although if you strain your eyes on a clear day you can just identify the tiny silhouette of Ely cathedral 15 miles away.

At the front windows a sculptured heap of earth contains the Old Bedford River. "This Fenland," says Swift, "this palpable earth raised out of the flood by centuries of toil... is a magical, a miraculous land."

And so it seemed on New Year's Eve with friends, magically renewed and our own traditions, the ritual of seven Fenland hogmanays miraculously preserved: the baggy-and-pheasant dinner, the tall dark Scotsman at the door at midnight, coal and herring in hand, the children sleeping like sparrows below the rafters, the watchnight sounds of three thousand swans.

But when the clock strikes and the television begins to parade its ghastly tartan travesty of the old festival we feel the jagged texture of guilt among the soft and smooth stuff of our contentment; and we know that when we breast the border on the way home we feel a tug of love for the neglected one; and brace ourselves to face the accusations of those who feel we have betrayed her.



Taking a bow: Dietrich, Nureyev and the Queen Mother

Roy Strong

Perfecting life's
curtain calls

It is sometimes regrettably true that curtain calls can be more interesting than the two three hours which precede them. Few things are more fascinating than watching the reactions of people who are the subject of applause. How surprising it must be for those, like the Princess of Wales, who suddenly graduate into the league of being able to evoke a state of instant euphoria in everyone without apparently having done a thing.

Two masters of the theatrical curtain call are Nureyev and Sir Frederick Ashton. Nureyev one remembers as just standing there alone in the silks of the stage, rather far back. He can walk forward but he is usually motionless apart from the bow of the head and, from time to time, the ultimate gesture of drawing, with one sweep of his right arm, the whole audience to him, extending his hand across his heart. Ashton is far more complex, beginning *piano* by being drawn in from the wings by a ballerina. This rather coy opening as the tidal wave of applause washes over him leads to a succession of stylized hand movements like the petals of an exotic blossom opening and closing in response to some unknown source of titillation. Even when he embraces on stage, the faces of the recipients are cupped between a sinuous arrangement of both hands.

Dietrich's curtain calls must have been rehearsed down to the last detail. Like Nureyev she stood alone, using very few movements, seemingly a statue entrapped in a sea of waves of silver fox fur far around her feet. There was the languorous hint of exhaustion of an ambiguous kind and the head of hair, of a colour, as was said of the first Elizabeth, of a colour never known to nature, raised and lowered itself as though achieved by some invisible mechanism.

In these instances of theatre the control of illusion by way of the curtain and fall of light is critical. In the concert hall the approach has to be more prosy and is all coming and going. In only one instance have I witnessed that same sense of

brilliant calculation. Herbert von Karajan came and went, seemingly impervious to the rapture he evoked, and then, in a final gesture, he stroled on wearing his overcoat, carrying his hat and walking stick. And that was that.

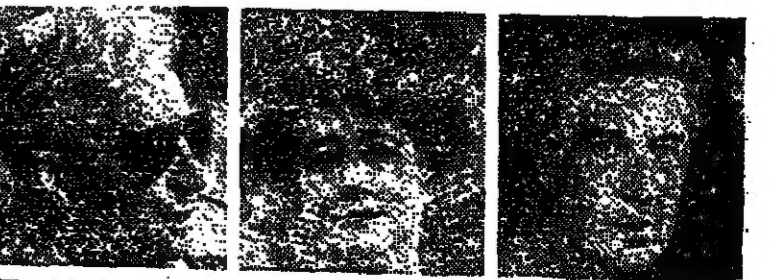
The fact of the matter is that these ritual exhibitions give as much pleasure to the audience as to the object of adoration. Acclamation of heroes and heroines fulfils a basic instinct in human nature. Only in time of war or great crisis does it ever extend into the political arena in this country where there is a fundamental distaste for the fascist cult of the leader in vast sage-managed spectacles. The British are able to channel that impulse around members of the Royal Family.

Whether they like it or not, all members are cast, as James I wrote, as actors upon a stage whose tiniest gesture is observed. Their public life is one long curtain call which must be responded to by movement of the body and facial expression. None has eclipsed the Queen Mother as the mistress of this art, knowing the exact moment when to acknowledge the crowd by a lift of her arm or when suddenly to look back at them.

I was never more struck by this artistry than at the gala for her eightieth birthday at Covent Garden. After the interval she seemed to vanish from the grand tier. The audience began to wonder what had happened when suddenly a beam of light fell on the old royal box and glittering figure slowly advanced, alone, to what became a tumult. As I looked I was reminded of Graham Robertson's famous description of Ellen Terry trying to arrive at a party unnoticed but in effect making an entrance like a sunrise.

The exponents of this art are few. They have the ability to seize hold of that magic moment when the routine acknowledgment of applause lifts itself by a kind of empathy into an art form of its own, leaving an indelible impression on the fortunate spectator.

Sir Roy Strong is director of the Victoria & Albert Museum.



Theatrical masters: von Karajan, Terry and Sir Frederick Ashton



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1984SPEAK

The principal message in George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty Four* is about the use and abuse of language for political purposes. The dawn of the title year has precipitated a crop of structural comparisons between the state of 1984 which we will witness in fact tomorrow morning, and the conditions of society portrayed in the triangular world of dictatorship of Orwell's novel. But Orwell was less concerned with political structure than with words.

In an important appendix to the book he described the principles of Newspeak, the idea which forms the intellectual and cultural heart of the work. Newspeak, according to one of its practitioners, was intended to "Narrow the range of thought" until "thoughtcrime" (independent thinking of any kind) would be "literally impossible because there will be no words in which to express it". It meant that every year there would be fewer and fewer words in the vocabulary, and thus the range of consciousness would always be a little smaller. Significantly Orwell's appendix made clear that by 1984 only the most urgent depredations had been made on the language. The terminal lobotomy of the English mind, for political purposes, was not to have been completed until 2050. By then every vestige of the variety and richness of our language would have been fully eliminated from speech and literature, rendering free thinking and free speech, which had been criminal, literally impossible. A veritable gulag of the mind.

Touchstone

As we approach 1984 nobody can ignore the fact that we are on our way both by design and by default to a progressive and irreversible deterioration in the use of language. Language is to public discourse and private morality what a sound currency is to economic stability: once it is subverted, society will lose its touchstone, and even its symbols and myths which are normally conveyed through words and are part of every society's self-consciousness.

It is a characteristic of every age to decay a decline in standards. But the decline in respect for language, and its subversion by some and traduced by many others, has a particular warning for us because it will diminish and ultimately destroy our ability to perceive that standards - any standards - are declining because without language those standards will no longer be capable of just expression or fair evaluation. Solzhenitsyn is not the only one to have noticed this decline. However, he is one of the few who have witnessed the twin motors of degeneration: the abuse by design in the totalitarian world from which he was exiled, and by default in the liberal world whose light shone at him from afar, only to dim when on closer inspection he discovered its canker of doubt and self-destruction within.

We know that it is the purpose of Marxism-Leninism to subordinate everything - even words - to the interest of the Communist party. We have their word for it, year after year. We can listen to Mr Brezhnev recalling Lenin's words that "in our society everything that serves to build up Communism is moral". He paraphrased that by saying that "Everything serving the interest of people in building up Communism is democratic". What more categorical intention ultimately to destroy language and meaning, and what more immediate demonstration of the actual destruction of the meaning of two key words - moral and democratic - could there be than that?

Moreover we should not belittle the subversive effect of Marxist techniques to sustain and persist with the use of vague and meaningless terminology whose interpretation can be varied in different circumstances and adapted to the use of specific goals, by divorcing words from their accepted meaning and by ceaseless repetition of demonstrably untrue statements. What is the need to lie openly, when

truth, well doctored, gelded and shrewdly distributed, will serve the same purpose? It was Trollope who said that there is no villainy to which education cannot reconcile us. If education corrupts, can ceaseless propaganda be far behind?

It has already cast an effective spell within the Soviet system. As Adam Michnik, the Polish dissident, has observed, it corrodes a society which is deprived of the meaning of words, and thus of its critical faculty and the alternative concepts necessary to validate true criticism. "I believe that a dispute about language is the central element of Polish intellectual life for the last 35 years," he has said. "It is about our ability to defend reality and to communicate with each other. In that period a great many of our society have lost their ability to communicate because of the language foisted upon them."

In the subsoil of a pluralist society lie the roots of individual freedom and morality. They are nourished by the gentle rain of a million words and ideas. No rain; no roots. No words; no freedom. We know that Marxism-Leninism adapts and promotes any misuse of language if it contributes to the ultimate political goal. We know that systematic discussion and criticism is impossible if demonstrable falsehoods are deemed admissible - persistently so - because of their political purpose. We know there is a conspiracy to corrupt, subvert and ultimately destroy the "bourgeois language" because Lenin warned us of its intention. What is harder to recognise and harder still to cope with is the widespread indigenous debasement of our language which cannot be attributed to some clearly defined external conspiracy and ideological assault. It happens pervasively nonetheless. Its practitioners include some intellectuals; their calling should be to act as custodians of the language rather than as instruments of its corruption.

Where freedom to use a rich vocabulary is still available in pluralist society, why do so many intellectuals prefer to avoid the language of direct meaning in favour of imprecision or even the language of illusion? A common attitude to criticism of orthodox intellectual positions or received policies is that it does not help in the solution of some cognate problem as though, if something is bad, it is believed better not to say so unless one can do better. There is almost always the unspoken but implicit assumption that if something is bad it is easily rectifiable, seldom true. These intellectuals tend to define things not by what they are, but by what they are not ought to be, so that they can claim that intellectual criticism is only justifiable as a preparation for doing something about it.

Manipulation

This condition is at its most pervasive in the social sciences, and any discipline relating to the study of economics. But it does not stop there. There is a progressive use of vague abstract concepts such as equality, discrimination, stabilization, interdependence and so on which are susceptible to often incompatible interpretation. As Popper observed, these methods are intended "through a conscious manipulation of facts and minds", to substantiate wholly invalid historical predictions about the future, particularly in periods of rapid social change or apprehension. These predictions are then amplified by appeals to the emotions which deny logical refutation.

There is a tendency to depersonalize and therefore to politicize private conditions affecting individuals. We have the politicization of sexuality and homosexuality, of marriage and divorce, of the status of women, of parental authority. The family, which is to be a living organism of infinite variety, good and bad, is treated as an abstraction, a mere index for social determinants. These tendencies should not be seen as

evidence of a Leninist conspiracy. They are more likely to spring from a reaction to it among intellectuals who, though seduced by the magnetic power of Marxist certainty and dogmatism, are searching themselves for a meaning in the secular Western society of today. They are desperate to match Marxist certainty with a counter truth equally categorical, but equally unsatisfactory. LeBon, in *The Psychology of Socialism*, wrote: "Hitherto man has been unable to live without divinities. They fall often from their throne, but that throne has never remained empty." According to Mrs Jean Kirkpatrick, the scourge and demon of American intellectuals, "Today's secular society has produced its own secular priesthood in the verbalizing classes". The wish for political change in which society is transformed to fit preconceived notions of political good bestows on intellectuals an especially important role in which they interpret reality on the way to the Utopian vision. These people are hot for certainties but wantonly cool about the consequences. In vain the cry of the Czech author who wrote "You can't build Utopia without terror, and before long terror is all that is left". Where is to be found the classless society without its terrorist truth?

Happy total

In their desperation to merge the real and the ideal the Utopians succumb to the mystique of revolutionary violence - the violence of the best intentions. Their attitude was succinctly illustrated by Stephen Spender as "as some day, somewhere everything would add up to the happy total... The argument of an abstract sum held in one's mind which cancelled out all lesser considerations."

So, will Orwell's prediction of the debasement of language occur not from a Marxist conspiracy but from a self-inflicted wound? Will the decline and even extinction of our culture be achieved by "committed writers" described by H. G. Wells as "not men; but mere footnotes to reality"? Will they be driven by their propensity for abstract thinking in order to find goals in an abstraction, regardless of their lack of connection with mundane reality? We must see that Orwell's warning does not turn into a prophecy.

"The genuine intellectual", wrote Hans Morgenthau the American scholar, "must speak truth to power." No; because to do so is to fall victim to the illusion that he has a superior truth when all he can and should do is to point out that power has no more prescriptive truth behind it than the rest of us. A society, like an individual, is above all the ideas which its members form of itself. This idea is not simply the product of the ideas merchants, but is based on many other things, in which words, images, myths and mysteries all combine and confound attempts to be codified by unitarians in search of the master code.

What if there is no single reality, but only, as Dr Alan McGlashan the London psychiatrist suggests in his book *Gravity and Levity*, a reality "always and everywhere ambiguous, paradoxical, open-ended", resting on an endlessly elusive balance of contraries? Man would then be free to commit himself totally, without anxiety, to whatever reveals itself as truth to him, in recognition of all life's other possibilities. "Life is not a series of problems", said the French philosopher Gabriel Marcel. "It is a network of mysteries." There is no place, no need, and no possibility for Newspeak in a society which has come to terms with the world's paradoxes and its mysteries. It would need more, not fewer words then to help navigate such a momentous journey through time. It is not the Orwellian nightmare which should be upon us tonight as the bells ring in 1984: only life's eternal dream which bridges the differences between ourselves and what we seek.

Gas industry reform

From Mr T. Mervyn Jones
Sir, Kenneth Hutchinson's letter (December 22) must command the serious attention of all concerned for the prosperity and better being of the public sector in our economy in general and the gas industry in particular.

Area boards in the past pioneered the most significant of modern gas developments. His own, the South-east, led in new methods of gas-making and with the close collaboration of his colleague, Sir Michael Milne-Watson, of North Thames board, the first bringing into Britain of methane for public gas supply. For good measure he and his

board nurtured Sir Dennis Rooke, the present admirable Chairman of the British Gas Corporation.

Our Wales Board was responsible for the introduction to Britain of high-pressure pipe lining, on which the whole present distribution of North Sea gas is based, in spite of the gloomy predictions of the central establishment that we would surely fail; and at the same time achieved gas's first breakthrough into the profitable space-heating market.

The idea of an independent regulatory commission, as he said, is

not new here or in America. These, with the state ones, there was, until its recent extinction, the Federal Power Commission, which those of us privileged to see it at work found well protected the widest public interest, consumers and others alike.

Here in gas the public interest in recent years has tended to be submerged equally by over-large centralised administration as by the questionable activities of politicians collector. Yours faithfully, T. MERVYN JONES, Erw Hir, 38 Fairwater Road, Llandaff, Cardiff.

Educating judges and barristers

From his Honour Judge Head
Sir, Only with a diffidence which is all the greater for being rooted in an affectionate admiration not only for Lord Justice Lawton's own learning but for all that he has done for the law and the Bar dare I suggest that the fifth paragraph of his letter, published on December 27, proceeds upon a misconception.

I am one of those county court judges, without an academic background in law, who wrapped a wet towel round his head for 18 months in order to pass the Bar exams - in my case after a degree in modern languages and a cadetship in the Royal Navy. I cannot deny that I might be better judge if I were more intelligent and a profounder lawyer; but I cannot see what contribution to my present work would have been made by a three or four-year study of law in the 1940s, for much of the law which I have to administer has been changed since that time and indeed continues to be changed, much of it since my appointment in 1971.

The law of divorce which takes up much of my time has been so revolutionized that the learning of 1947, when I was called, is now useless if not downright dangerous. Contract has encountered much judicial interpretation as well as the busy hand of the parliamentary draftsman, especially in the realms of hire-purchase and consumer credit, those staples of the county court.

Torts have been altered in many respects, by statutes such as the Occupier's Liability Act, the Torts (Interference with Goods) Act, and the Acts dealing with animals; and by judicial reconsideration of such doctrines as the remoteness of damage and the limitation of actions, all good county court stuff.

Yet again, those staples of county court work, Northern and Southern Rents Acts, have been halved in their changes as they have been buffeted by the waves of circumstance, legislation and interpretation.

If the county court judge is to keep abreast of current law, what he needs more than a good legal education is a good legal library, kept up to date, and the time to read it.

Having said all that, I must add that, while so many litigants in the county court may need such learning as we have, they also want to feel that their problems can be understood in human terms: often the past experiences of being a farmer and director of a small company and the engineering training that used to be given to naval cadets as well as the present joys of being a parent and grandparent have given me a livelier awareness of the problem before me than my pre-1947 legal studies, such as they were.

I fancy that no one who has read a number of Lord Justice Lawton's own judgments would for a moment think that the rather realistic approach of my last paragraph is in any way foreign to his own mind; and I always treasure the recollection of his words in a judgment in an action in which I had the privilege of appearing before him when he was a puisne judge: "Everyone knows that, in a small business, one of the most useful assets is the will..."

I remain, Sir, your most obedient servant,
ADRIAN HEAD,
Overy Staithe,
Kings Lynn,
Norfolk.
December 29.

Library sponsorship

From Mr Frederick Oughton
Sir, Lord Gowrie's suggestion (report, December 20) that public libraries should look into the possibilities of private sponsorship brings the wheel full turn. Many of these institutions were originally endowed by Andrew Carnegie from a fortune made in steel.

The most obvious source of sponsorship is the publishing industry itself on the basis of annual fees according to turnover. This would be in their own interests because they stock the libraries and depend largely on library sales for the promotion of only of new fiction but also works of minority appeal.

This would ensure an improved stocking of the new titles which public libraries cannot currently afford due to expenditure cuts.

Apart from publishers, other factions may become sponsors, including the paper, printing and binding industries. While hands may well be raised in horror within the business sectors I have mentioned, it is perhaps appropriate to point out that there could well be considerable tax advantages in the endowment or sponsorship arrangement.

Yours faithfully,
FREDERICK OUGHTON,
15 Princes Road, Ealing, W13.
December 20.

Sobering thought

From Mr Robin Gwynn
Sir, Your front-page article today (December 27) reports that of 2,337 breath tests in Nottinghamshire, "only 40 results were positive". Are the Nottinghamshire Constabulary particularly skilled at accurately spotting suspected drunken drivers, or are they simply wasting a lot of sober motorists' time? Yours faithfully, ROBIN GWYNN, 65 South Hill Road, Bromley, Kent.
December 27.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Taking advantage of Eagle Star

From Mr R. C. Howroyd
Sir, As a general manager of Eagle Star, I wish to express my dismay at the procedure imposed by the Takeover Panel for auctioning the company.

I have worked for the Eagle Star for many years; many of my colleagues have served the company even longer, perhaps for their whole working life. The immense value now being placed upon Eagle Star shares must, in substantial measure, be the result of our efforts and skill over the years. But now we face the certain prospect of the company being "knocked down" to the highest bidder, without regard to the interests of policyholders, staff or nation.

How can it be right that the only interest to be taken into account is the securing of the maximum profit for a horde of speculators, none of whom, with trivial exception, have made any contribution to the company and whose only interest in it is the prospect of a quick capital gain?

How can it be right that employees, such as myself, who are allowed to hold shares like a sprat by the pension rights that our years of service have earned, should have no voice in a process under which our skills and talents, our enthusiasm and loyalty, are sold as property rights to whoever blindly pays the most?

One understands that the shareholders are the owners of the business, and no one sensibly begrudges them the profits of the enterprise or the chance, over a period of time, to sell their shares at a profit, but the subscribed capital is only one element in the success of a modern business and in our present-day society it is a legal anachronism that the shareholders of a great company employing thousands of

staff, whose name is a household word, and which can trace its origins back for almost 180 years, should be entitled to sell the company, without any form of consultation with management, customers or staff. I was surprised when the Minister for Trade and Industry decided not to refer the Eagle Star takeover bids to the Monopolies Commission. One understands the Government's commitment to free enterprise, but surely, in the long run, it will not help this country to recover its entrepreneurial spirit if our great composite insurance companies, with their accumulated policyholder reserves, are allowed to be knocked down, like second-hand war surplus, at auctions that pay no regard to the wishes of the company's management and board and that totally ignore the interests of customers and staff.

Through your columns, I ask the Minister for Trade and Industry to reconsider the decision of his predecessor and I believe that the farcical situation that has now arisen gives him this right.

The grounds are obvious: if an insurance company can be swallowed whole by a predator willing to pay unprecedented sums to secure ownership of the company's accumulated reserves the logical outcome must be weaker insurance companies. For how can management build up strong reserves, which are the essential prerequisite of a sound insurance operation, if the only result of added strength is to make the company a richer prize? How can this be in the interest of the nation? Yours faithfully, R. C. HOWROYD, Rest Harrow, Round Street, Cobham, Kent.

IRA and civil rights

From Mr Ben Ward
Sir, I am surprised to see Lord Hunt's declaration (December 22) that the IRA was not actively involved in the civil rights movement in 1969.

I have before me an account, published by the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association, which seems to refute that allegation. The association was formed on January 29, 1967.

One of the 13-member committee elected at that founding meeting to draw up a draft constitution for the association and a programme of campaign for civil rights was Billy McMillen, representing the Republican Clubs, a legal organization of the proscribed IRA.

Under the impact of the violent attacks on peaceful civil rights marches by the police, and loyalist gangs incited by Unionist politicians, the IRA split, in the period late 1969 to early 1970, into the Official and Provisional IRA. The Official IRA, now the Workers' Party, was composed of those who believed that the IRA

should persist in peaceful campaigning for civil rights and democracy in Northern Ireland, in the further belief that the achievement of these goals would end the sectarian division in Northern Ireland.

The Provisionals were those who argued that the violence being used against civil rights marchers proved that there is no peaceful road as long as the British are in Ireland.

Billy McMillen, who was assassinated in 1973, was, at the time of his death, the O.C. Belfast Command Staff of the Official IRA and a member of the executive committee of Official Sinn Féin.

The bomb that exploded outside Harrods was planted by members of the Provisional IRA. Lord Hunt's brief reference seems to me, by its simplicity, to bury the truth for those less well informed than himself and I hope that he will return to this matter at greater length.

Yours sincerely,
BERT WARD, Secretary,
Irish Socialist Committee,
Communist Party of Great Britain,
16 St John Street, EC1,
December 22.

London's buildings

From Mr Peter Carson and others
Sir, We should like to add our voices to the plea made by Professor Maurice Barley and others in their letter of December 21 for the retention of the Greater London Council Historic Buildings Division in its present form.

It is a measure of the imaginative and flexible approach of the division that it does not confine its activities to the very necessary provision of the expert advice to those directly involved in London's planning and conservation issues. By giving both practical and financial support to a wide range of publications the division fosters the understanding and enjoyment of historic buildings and areas among a broader public, an essential task if conservation legislation is to be effective.

The need for the dissemination of specialist knowledge in a form that can be appreciated by the intelligent

layman is as great now as it was when it inspired Allen Lane in the early years of Penguin Books.

The happy cooperation between the Greater London Council and Penguin Books over the *Buildings of England* (London 2) being the first of three volumes which will cover the Greater London suburbs is just one example of the many ways in which the division is able to increase public interest in and awareness of the richness and diversity of London's historic buildings. Yours faithfully, PETER CARSON, Editorial Director, Penguin Books, JOHN NEWMAN, Consultant Editor, *Buildings of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales*, BRIDGET CHERRY, Editor, *Buildings of England*, Penguin Books Ltd, 236 King's Road, SW10, December 22.

Places where they sing

From Mrs M. Gwynnell
Sir, I wonder whether Mr Peter Hannigan (December 27), who wishes to boost the number of candidates for our country's choir schools, has ever seriously considered admitting girls as choristers, thereby immediately doubling the number of potential candidates.

Quite apart from the discriminatory element, the exclusion of girls from our choir schools is as much to the detriment of the schools themselves as the girls.

As more and more parents are favouring co-education for their children, a choir school admitting girls alongside boys would inevitably attract more boy applicants into the bargain. Yours faithfully, BARBARA M. GWYNNE, 3 Alameda Street, NI, December 27.

Backward glance

From Mr L. C. R. Seaman
Sir, I have for several years been looking forward to the real, as distinct from the Orwellian, 1984 and not only because it will mark the bicentenary of the birth of that least Victorian of Victorians, Lord Palmerston. For 1984 will also see the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of my paternal great-grandfather.

In consequence, though a mere septuagenarian, I can truthfully say that my grandfather was already 19 when Queen Victoria was crowned, and that I knew in my youth a lady who had known, in the 1850s, a lady who, in her own youth, had known a lady who had danced with Prince Charles Edward in Edinburgh at the time of the Jacobite rising of 1745.

I am sure, Sir, that among my older you have readers who can claim similar personal links with

Watchful eyes on the pound

From Mr A. B. Purbrick
Sir, If you had pushed your reasoning for the crumpled pound note (leading article, December 23) a little further it would have become clear that a reform of the coinage is inevitable.

A plausible long-term rate of inflation might be six per cent. This also conveniently tells us that by the "rule of 72" the pound will be worth 50p in 12 years and 25p in 24 years at today's prices. At that rate the round pound seems to be a reasonably sized coin, but by then the 50p coin will look silly and the 10p coin ludicrous.

The decimalization of the currency hid the need to reform the coinage anyway. This gambit will not be available another time. Clinging to a fistful of crumpled paper may suit the foreseeable future of a nation of museum-keepers. But it would be as well to preserve a few £5 notes brand new in plastic because they will be the next to go.

Yours etc, A. B. PURBRICK, 28 Doverhouse Road, SW15, December 24.

From Lord Sligo

Sir, Congratulations to the Government on phasing out the pound note - so easily mixed up with paper handkerchiefs.

One suggestion: Could not the admirable coin be more "golden"? There would be no extra cost for a new alloy and the blind would still benefit from its thickness. Incidentally, it would more nearly resemble in appearance the sovereign of my childhood and in a bad light be easier to distinguish from the 5p piece.

A few in my pocket makes me feel quite rich without weighing me down. Just one buys a pint and an evening paper. Long may it last! Yours etc, LORD SLIGO, House of Lords, December 28.

From Mr Geoffrey Sampson

Sir, On Wednesday the MP for Shropshire announced (report, December 23) that the pound note is "central to everything" and begged for Treasury assurance that it would live: you devote today's first leader to it (December 23).

What has happened to a sense of proportion? And am I the only citizen who finds the new coins far more convenient than notes?

Yours faithfully, GEOFFREY SAMPSON, Richmond House, Ingleton, via Carnforth, Lancashire, December 23.

Personality change

From Mr Alexander H. Shand
Sir, The Reverend Canon Grimwade is mistaken in thinking (December 28) that there are implications of an inconsistency in Government welfare policy in the fact of Mrs Thatcher's choice of Mother Teresa.

Mrs Thatcher has never been opposed to genuine altruism so far as I know. What she is somewhat more opposed to than many other politicians is taking money off A (by Government-applied coercion) and deciding that B will be given it.

Does the reverend canon tax his congregation in order to raise a fund out of which he dispenses benefits to good causes of his choice? Neither does Mother Teresa.

Yours faithfully, ALEXANDER H. SHAND, Manchester Polytechnic, Faculty of Management & Business, Department of Economics & Economic History, Aytoun Street, Manchester, December 28.

Pastis master

From Sir Robin Hooper
Sir, Having had some experience of both, I have been fascinated by your recent preoccupation with Lysanders and the production in France of illicit booze (articles by Mr Paul Pickering, November 3 and Mr John P. Harris, December 15).

My wife and I have just returned from the farmhouse in southern France where we were celebrating the fortieth anniversary of my arrival there after boggling an aircraft on a rain-soaked field. Among the goodies with which my infinitely kind and courageous hosts regaled me was home-made pastis.

Procurement, in those days, was slightly different. You could get essence of aniseed from the chemist; but the alcohol came from a neighbour's (probably illegal) still. The technique of production was, however, almost exactly the same: less athletic, perhaps, than cassimaking as so hilariously described by Mr Pickering, but quite as gratifying in its end result.

Those who remember life under the fascist baton of Marshal Pétain may recall how the Vichysites went on and on about how strong aperitifs had rotted not only the guts but also the moral fibre of the nation, thus bringing about the defeat of 1940 and forcing the father of his people to ban pastis and similar delights.

The truth of the matter, as everybody of course knew, was that the Marshal's government were busy handing over all the alcohol of industry they were made to German industry. To drink pastis thus became almost a patriotic duty, and to make it almost an act of resistance - an act in which no one indulged more enthusiastically than

Yours faithfully, ROBIN HOOPER, Brook House, Egerton, Ashford, Kent, December 17.

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Indoor and outdoor activities will include fishing, tennis, squash, archery, shooting, swimming, snooker and a gymnasium. Among the amenities planned - children's play area, a craft centre, solarium and beauty salon.

Horse breeding has long been a family interest. Riding and other equestrian pursuits are available and stabling is being extended to provide accommodation for visitors' horses.

In addition to the distractions on the estate, the surrounding area has much to offer, and many places of outstanding beauty. The rivers Wye and Usk for instance, provide excellent salmon fishing. Enjoy the wild freedom of the Black Mountains, the English and Welsh Marches with their castles, the Forest of Dean and the Cotswolds.

Surprisingly for such an unspoilt and undiscovered area, it is one of the most accessible parts of the country, being well served by motorways from all over Britain (London and Manchester are just over 2½ hours away).

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THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

P&O wins the 1983 thoroughbred stakes

All week champagne corks have been popping in brokers' offices in celebration of a prosperous 1983 and to greet the new year, which holds promise of more good business to come.

This will be seen as the year Britain finally pulled clear of the recession. Much, if not all, of British industry as emerged more vigorous, leaner and better managed. Along the way there have been casualties, usually companies unable to conform to higher standards of competition, but, by and large, the forecasters paint a rosy picture of prospects.

The FT Index of 30 leading shares, a universally popular although not an accurate guide, ended the year on a high note at 776.2, a rise of over 30 per cent from the figures a year ago. The FT-Actuaries All Share Index also closed 1983 on a firm note, just a couple of points short of its record high and 20 per cent up on a year ago. Despite belief to the contrary, both have outstripped inflation over the past nine years, and the market shows few signs of running out of steam yet.

This year also marked the appearance of American investors in numbers in the London stock market. Their thirst for the bluest of our blue chips seemed unquenchable, and this, combined with a stream of takeover situations, has made for a very lively market.

The best performance among the constituents of the FT Index was Peninsula & Oriental's, where the close attention of Mr Nigel Brookes and his colleagues at Trafalgar House and the response of the P&O board, mainly in the shape of a new chairman, Mr Jeffrey Sterling, did the share price nothing but good.

The next scene in this drama will be enacted in the new year when the Monopolies Commission delivers its report, but investors are now looking at P&O in its own right. The shares closed at 249p on Friday, way above Trafalgar's first bid in May, and a rise on the year of 130 per cent.

P&O's nearest rival was London Brick, up 108 per cent at 137p, after Lord Hanson's decision to add it to his buying list.

At the other end of the spectrum, the

disaster story of the year was London & Liverpool Trust. After parting company with its former chairman, Mr Ron Schuck, the board pinned its hopes on another entrepreneur, Mr Jeffrey Bonas, whose Telejector subsidiary, the pub video company, was expected to yield rich pickings. Things turned sour.

Pundits and punters alike are now placing their bets on the leaders and laggards for 1984. If 1983 is anything to go by it should be another interesting race.

British Airways shows strength

Sir Adam Thomson, chairman of British Caledonian, has put up a good case for his independent airline absorbing some of British Airways' prime routes as a precursor to BA's privatization. Not surprisingly, he reserves a pre-Hogmanay snub for Mr Colin Marshall, BA's chief executive, who says in *The Director* magazine: "One of the great strengths of British Airways, which needs to be maintained, is its comprehensive route network and structure. It is absolutely essential that it be maintained."

Sir Adam argues that duopoly in the airline business would be better than the near-monopoly enjoyed by British Airways; the Government, keen to see the best possible return from the sale of Lord King's increasingly efficient BA fleet, and the management led by Mr Marshall, are not so sure. Mr Marshall hopes to see "100 per cent of the airline sold. It would be unwise to be neither one thing nor the other."

In a Christmas Eve letter to *The Times*, Lord King underlined his intention not to preside over the dismemberment of the national flag carrier airline "by selling off valuable commercial assets." Any diminution of the BA role would not be in the nation's long-term interests, he said.

Mr Marshall says for good measure: "our belief, that whatever has to be done in terms of restructuring our balance sheet the Government - and therefore the taxpayer - will get back at least all of the money that will have been put into British Airways and, I hope, a premium on top of that."

LEADERS AND LAGGARDS OF 1983

Company	Closing Price	Gain on year %	Company	Closing Price	Loss on year %
Bellatrix Cosmetics	853.00	+3608.7	London & L'pool	25.00	-85.4
Dollands Photo	323.00	+1096.3	Newman Inds.	17.00	-78.7
Harold Ingram	245.00	+880.0	Ashley Indl Tet	12.00	-74.5
Kraft Products	195.00	+628.8	Breville Europe	29.00	-72.9
Belgrave (Bilbryn)	134.00	+793.3	Burnett & Hallams	138.00	-69.5
Meggitt Hoge	88.00	+780.0	Michael Slack	40.00	-69.0
Tace	139.00	+531.8	Hongkong Rubber	175.00	-68.2
Bula Resources	37.50	+525.0	Humbroside Elect	9.00	-67.8
Pavilion Leisure	80.00	+515.4	Bio-Isolates	88.00	-66.5
Audiotronic Hogs	19.00	+474.8	Nova (Jersey) Knt	30.00	-63.9
Parkfield Fndrs	44.00	+457.3	Comb Tech Corp	21.50	-62.0
Carpets Int	64.00	+456.3	Branco	30.00	-60.0
London Pavilion	13.00	+420.0	Barget	38.00	-56.6
W. E. Norton	14.00	+392.9	London Pte Hlth	17.00	-55.3
Fitzwilliam	66.00	+377.8	UEI	141.00	-53.8
H. Young Hldgs	95.00	+362.4	Roclawe Group	20.00	-53.5
Executive Clothes	48.00	+336.4	Leisuretime Int	48.00	-53.3
Saxon Oil	248.00	+327.9	Blackwood Hodge	8.00	-52.2
Fleet Holdings	130.00	+317.1	Immediate BS Sys	115.00	-48.1
Garford-Liley	89.00	+308.3	TSL Thermal Synd	42.00	-47.8
FT 30 Share Index	776.2	+25.58	High	776.2	Low
FTA All-Share Index	382.22	+22.68%	22/12/83	121/83	434.65
			28/12/83	3/1/83	

By Andrew Cornelius

Allianz has reserved the right to sell its stake at above the 700p level agreed with BAT.

BAT will post full details of its offer to shareholders with a letter from Eagle Star urging them to accept the offer within the next few days.

Eagle Star shares fell from 714p to close at 692p yesterday, while shares of BAT finished 11p up at 179p.

Sir Denis Mountain, chairman of Eagle Star, described the prospects for the group under BAT's ownership as exciting. His personal stake in the company is now worth £3.2m, against £2.7m when the bidding began with a 500p per share offer from Allianz in October.

Under the terms of the deal struck with BAT the existing Eagle management will continue to run the business. Sir Denis and one other director will join the BAT board, while Mr Patrick Sheehy, chairman of BAT and a

Allianz accepts BAT's £966m bid for Eagle

By Andrew Cornelius

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Star once the takeover is formally concluded on January 18.

Allianz said that it had decided to pull out of the bidding ahead of the 4.30pm deadline for final bids set by the Takeover Panel largely because it could not achieve its original aim of gaining a significant stake in Eagle rather than winning full control.

Allianz will use the proceeds from the sale of its holding in Eagle to enhance its capital base.

The profit from the sale of shares which were first acquired in a dawn raid two years ago, also leave the group well positioned to develop other opportunities for international expansion, including further takeover opportunities in the London insurance market.

The fierce bidding for Eagle has led to calls backed by Sir Denis, for government guidelines to protect other British composite insurance companies from foreign takeover.

Good start to account

Hopes for a prosperous New Year kept the equity market on the boil yesterday as share prices opened the new account on a firm note. The FT Index managed to equal last week's index of 776.2 during the day, but closed below its best levels of yesterday 3.2 up at 775.7.

Once again, most of the serious investment advice was centred on the leaders, but turnover remained low, with dealers making the most of an early start to the New Year festivities. Gilt showed little inclination to move from their overnight positions, despite high hopes for the economy in 1984 by several analysts.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 775.7 up 3.2
FT Gilt: 85.12 down 0.03
FT All Share: 470.5 up 1.61
Bargains: 17,014
Detstream USN Leaders Index: 97.89 up 1.77
New York: Dow Jones Industrial Average: (latest) 1259.55 down 0.61
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index closed: 161.6
Hong Kong: Hang Seng Index 674.94 down 2.21
Amsterdam: 161.6 unchanged
Sydney: AO Index 1004.4 up 1.4
Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index 1041.7 unchanged
Brussels: General Index 138.16 down 0.61
Paris: CAC Index 158.7 down 0.2
Zurich: SKA General 316.90 unchanged

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling \$1.4515 up 30pts
Index 82.9 up 0.1
DM 3.9550 unchanged
FF 12.07 down 0.02
Yen 336.50 unchanged
Dollar Index n.a.
DM 2.2220 down 0.0060
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.4515
Dollar DM 2.7230
INTERNATIONAL
ECU 0.570400
SDR 0.725168

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$381.50 pm \$381.50
close \$381.50-382.60 (£263.25-263.75)
New York (latest): \$385.00
Kruggerand (per coin):
\$393-394.50 (£271-272)
Sovereigns (new):
\$89.50-90.50 (£67.15-67.50)
*Excludes VAT

State 'must cut levies on industry'

By David Young

Costs imposed on industry by central and local government must be cut if the economic recovery started in 1983 is to be sustained, Sir Terence Beckett, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, said yesterday.

Sir Terence, in an end-of-year message, also said that prices must be held down by keeping wage settlements down.

"That is paramount in the battle against inflation," he said.

For much of industry and commerce the situation was still "fragile", he said.

"My greatest concern is that the recovery should be sustained. There is a long way to go: there are still more than 3 million people in Britain without jobs. If we are to help them to find work we must do everything we can to ensure that British products and services are competitive in world markets - not only in price but in quality, design, performance and in after-sales service."

"We must make the goods that people buy, not those we think they ought to have."

"The bulk of the task is for management, but Government must help by creating the right economic climate."

Candecca in mystery bid talks

By Derek Pain

Shares of Candecca Resources surged 44p to 190p yesterday after Mr Geoffrey Butcher, the chairman, disclosed that bid talks were taking place with a substantial company not currently a shareholder.

Mr Butcher refused to be drawn on the identity of the possible bidder but in the stock market, Trafalgar House, the hotel, property and shipping group, emerged as the clear favourite.

Esso and Rio Tinto-Zinc Corporation are regarded as the other likely candidates.

At 190p a share Candecca commands a stock market value of £75m. If, as many suspect, a bidder is forced to pay some 250p a share, then the company's capitalization would be near £100m.

The initial approach occurred "a couple of weeks ago", Mr Butcher said.

Candecca is best known for its string of on shore oil developments, including Humby Grove in Hampshire. But in

Thames Investment to sue over Miami project

By Jonathan Clare

Thames Investment is planning to take legal action against Mr Tom Whyte, the financier, after his decision to pull out of a 13m property development in Miami, Florida.

Mr Whyte's involvement began in October when he signed an agreement to take over Thames' part in the Miami project, which had been instrumental in the company's loss of almost £5m last year.

But he told Thames on December 23 that he no longer intended to proceed with his side of the bargain. Mr Whyte

Haverford may bid for Tring

A new takeover bid may be on the way for Tring Hall Securities, the controversial group which specialise in bringing companies to the US.

Last night, Haverford Securities, the unquoted investment group headed by Mr Norman Barrington Cork, said it was considering making a fresh offer. Last summer, Haverford was involved in a long and bitter struggle for control of Tring Hall.

No Haverford executive was available yesterday to give details of the proposed offer.

In June, Tring Hall lost its licence to deal in securities.

WALL STREET

Dow slips in mixed trading

New York (AP-Dow Jones) - Share prices rose in continued light trading yesterday, reversing an opening loss. However, by noon they had slipped again. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was 0.30 points lower at 1259.57.

Advances were about level with falling shares.

AMR Corp was trading at 36, up 1/2, on a volume of 314,300 shares, including a block of 242,000 at 35 1/2, that traded shortly after the opening.

United Airlines was up 1/4 at 36 1/2, and Delta was 1/4 higher at 39 1/2. Pan Am rose 1/2 to 5 1/2.

Some traders are believed to be continuing to adjust their portfolios for the New Year and to be engaged in some tax selling. Despite the expected slowdown, 1983 will be the busiest year in the 191-year history of New York Stock Exchange with more than 21 billion shares changing hands. This exceeds 1982's 16.5 billion shares.

The investors who had not already left for the New Year's holiday weekend were likely to be restrained by uncertainty about the Federal Reserve's money supply figures, due out after the market closed.

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 9
Finance houses base rate 9 1/2
Discount market loans week fixed 9

3 month interbank 9 1/2-9 3/4
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 9 1/2-9 3/4
3 month DM 6 5/8
3 month FF 13 1/2-13 3/4

US rates:
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 9 1/2
Treasury long bond 10 1/2-10 1 1/2

ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV
Average reference rate for interest period November 2 to December 6, 1983 inclusive: 9.350 per cent.

\$3.8bn loan reflects Mexico's progress

By John Lawless

Foreign bankers yesterday acknowledged Mexico's recent economic progress with a \$3.8 billion (£2.6 billion) 10-year loan to meet its 1984 requirements. Terms of the new loan are considerably easier than those attached to the £5 billion commercial bank credit signed last February.

Mexico's debts still total about £83 billion. But the country has cut inflation from 100 per cent in 1982 to 53.8 per cent in the first eight-months of this year and the economy is improving fast.

A British banker said yesterday: "There is still some way to go. But the Mexicans have managed this extraordinary performance by not only complying with the expectations of outsiders, especially in terms of scrupulously making interest payments, but in many cases going beyond them."

The main achievement was to cut the national budget deficit from 17 per cent of gross

national product in 1982 to the 8 per cent specified by the International Monetary Fund this year. "If somebody had suddenly told President Reagan, or the British Government for that matter, 'Cut your deficit in half', the answer would have been 'impossible', the banker said. "But the Mexicans did it."

For British companies, the next six months could mean the highest level of business contacts in more than two years.

The Latin American Trade Advisory Group, which advises the Government on foreign trade policy, anticipated Mexico's recovery almost a year ago. "We set up the British-Mexican Businessmen's Group in February", Mr Michael Valdes Scott, LATAG director, said yesterday.

"In May, Mr Bob Hickman, managing director of the Volvo-Rolls-Royce diesel engine plant in Mexico, will lead a delegation of expatriate businessmen to Britain to advise firms

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Full name(s) _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Signature(s) _____ Date _____

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Andrew Cornelius on the change at the Takeover Panel

Hignett bows out, defending a softly-softly approach to bids

Mr John Hignett, director general of the City Takeover Panel for 2½ years, retires this week with the City's code on takeovers and mergers intact and the principle of self-regulation confirmed.

The challenge left open to his successor, Mr Timothy Barker, a 43-year-old member of the corporate finance team at Kleinwort, Benson, is to combine successfully the roles of director general of the Panel and director general of the new Council for the Securities Industry, Mr Hignett took on responsibility for the two jobs last summer, but he admits that the new council, the ultimate watchdog of City affairs, is not yet functioning properly.

Its role will be more clearly defined next year when the Gower Report on investor protection will be published. Other committees established by the council on the over-the-counter market, the future of the Stock Exchange and the implementation of EEC directives in the City will also be ready to report next year.

As the council's workload builds up, so, too, will that of the director general. The additional burden will be added to that of the Takeover Panel where a dedicated team already works a 12-hour day, including many weekends.

Mr Hignett, who returns to Lazard as a managing director in the corporate finance department, had personally to monitor more than 150 bids in 1983 — perhaps the Panel's busiest year so far. The bids ranged from largely unpublicized take-over attempts, such as that by Jorheut Investments for the Badulipar Tea Company to the record-breaking bids for Eagle Star Holdings by Allianz Versicherungs of West Germany, and BAT Industries.

The Eagle Star bid has been one of the toughest for Mr Hignett and his colleagues to handle. Before Christmas, they called a full meeting of the Takeover Panel, chaired by Mr Martin Jacob, a vice-chairman of Kleinwort, Benson.

This was one of the rare occasions that Mr Hignett had to call the Panel members together to resolve a problem. Normally, his softly-softly approach, coupled with an occasional warning to bidders by means of a statement to the press, has been enough to curtail takeover excesses. This time, however, Mr Hignett was

BIGGEST BIDS OF THE YEAR



Hignett: code intact

Target	Bidder	Price	Result
Eagle Star Holdings	BAT Industries	£360m	Undecided
Thomas Tilling	STI	£280m	Victory
UDS	Heron Trust	£280m	Victory
Stanley Perry	Heron Trust	£122m	Refused
Bolton	Seafar	£100m	Failed
Reed	Seafar	£55m	Undecided
Stobart	Seafar	£55m	Undecided
Indust TV	Seafar	£55m	Refused
P&O	Seafar	£220m	Refused
AE	Seafar	£136.8m	Refused
London Dock	Heron Trust	£170m	Undecided

unable to win agreement from Eagle, Allianz and BAT on bringing a speedy conclusion to the bidding.

The problem was trying to maintain a balance between the interests of Eagle Star, whose business could possibly be damaged if the ti-for-ti bidding was prolonged, and the rights of shareholders who could be prevented from obtaining the best price for their shares if the bidding was concluded prematurely.

The panel's decision to set a deadline for the bidding at 4.30pm yesterday, however, sets a precedent.

Mr Hignett also discounts the view that takeover tactics have become dirtier this year. He says: "There have been more bids which have been more and with more to play for. This has meant that the tactics have become better. But I don't think the tactics have been dirtier."

He counters criticism of his softly-softly approach to the more controversial tactics employed in some bids by arguing that it is not the panel's job to interfere with tactics, except as a last resort.

On two occasions when the Panel did intervene during the

6 The tacticians have become better but I don't think the tactics have been dirtier 9

By insisting that there should be a shoot-out then, the panel opened the way for a last-minute sealed-envelope auction of Eagle Star.

Mr Hignett does not think it is the best way to resolve the company's future but, he says, the panel had to reach a solution that was the fairest possible for each party even if it was not entirely satisfactory to all of them.

Though the takeover rules were tested to their limits by the bidding for Eagle Star, Mr Hignett suggests that the problems arose only because the two bidders remained in the battle for so long. He says the bid was made more complicated because it involved a foreign bidder and such large sums.

He adds: "The bidding for UDS went on much longer, but no one seemed to think the duration of the bid was a problem in that case."

year, Mr Hignett chose to publicize a set of guidelines rather than force a big revision of the rulebook.

Thus when the tacticians in the BTR/Thomas Tilling and Trafalgar House/P&O bids decided to mount huge press advertising campaigns to persuade shareholders how to vote, the panel made public a series of guidelines to govern the use of advertising. The panel also made use of its power to vet advertisements before publication.

In September, when the fiercely fought £18m battle for control of John Waddington by British Printing & Communication Corporation was reaching its final stages, the panel acted again. This time, the problem concerned statements made by BPCC to Waddington shareholders concerning the level of acceptances received for its offer.

The Panel judged that BPCC had entered dangerous waters by mentioning the percentage of acceptances on the telephone. Again the gentle approach was followed by publication of a guidance note which said that in future there should be a script for telephone calls which financial advisers should vet vigorously from the point of view of the code's requirements.

A third area of concern will prompt a statement explaining the Panel's views in its next annual report.

This followed controversy over the definition of the existence of concert parties when Hawley Cope was bidding for the Cope Allman leisure and packaging group.

The problem centred on whether Mr Michael Ashcroft, of Hawley Group, and Mr David Wickins, of British Car Auctions, were acting in concert.

The two had joined in launching an unsuccessful consortium bid for Cope, but Mr Ashcroft decided to pursue the takeover alone. Cope voiced its concern that Mr Wickins would add his 13 per cent stake to that of Mr Ashcroft if Hawley were allowed by the panel to launch a tender offer for up to 29 per cent of Cope's shares.

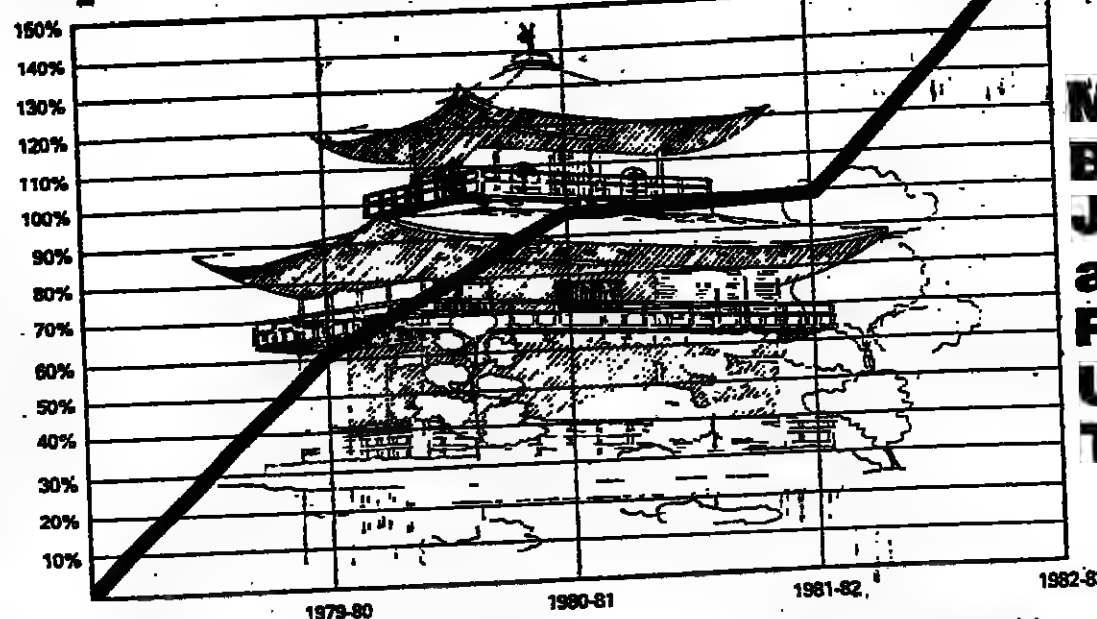
The panel's decision that Mr Ashcroft and Mr Wickins were no longer acting in concert aroused heated debate. But subsequent events showed the panel to be right.

The only fundamental change in the rule book while Mr Hignett was at the panel followed the preponderance of dawn raids in the market. Yet, looking back at the rules introduced to control the raids, Mr Hignett wonders whether they are not excessively complicated.

The raids took place at the bottom of the market when there had not been much bid activity. The fact that most of those selling shares in these raids lost out would probably have been enough to quell dawn raids without the new rules, Mr Hignett adds.

Looking at the bid scene in 1984, Mr Hignett predicts that the City will see a great deal more arbitrage by American investors hoping to make profits by taking a position in British bids.

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The offer price of accumulation units, which can change daily, was 136p on 28 December 1983. Units may be sold on any business day at not less than the minimum bid price ruling when your instructions are received. Prices are published daily in leading newspapers and calculated in accordance with Department of Trade regulations.

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Charge
The initial charge of 5% with a rounding up adjustment is included in the offer price. The Managers pay commission to authorized Agents (rates available on request).

A half-yearly charge of 1% (plus VAT) of the value of the fund is deducted from the Trust's income for expenses and fees. The Trust Deed permits a maximum half yearly charge of 1.5% (plus VAT), subject to giving unit holders not less than three months written notice.

Managers: Midland Bank Group Unit Trust Managers Limited, Courtwood House, Silver Street Head, Sheffield S1 3RD, a subsidiary of Midland Bank plc and a member of the Unit Trust Association.

Investment Management Ltd, Registrar: Clydesdale Bank plc, Transfer: Royal Exchange Assurance.

Based on the offer price of accumulation units on 28 December 1983.

To: Midland Bank Group Unit Trust Managers Limited, Courtwood House, Silver Street Head, Sheffield S1 3RD, Tel 0742 79842

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I/We enclose a cheque payable to you for: £ (minimum £500)

for investment in: ☐ Distribution units ☐ Accumulation units

(please tick) of Midland Bank Japan and Pacific Unit Trust

Surname (Mr/Ms/Miss)

Forename(s) in full

Address

Postcode

Signature(s)

(In the case of joint applicants all must sign)

I/We understand that units will be bought for me/us at the offer price ruling on the date of receipt of this application.

A contract note will be issued and you will receive a unit certificate within 42 days.

Please send me details of: ☐ Regular Savings Plan ☐ Share Exchange Scheme (please tick)

The offer is not open to residents of the Republic of Ireland

TJH/12

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TAX*

This investment is tax-free in respect of its accumulation and payment is made offshore, without any deduction for tax. According to his country of residence, an investor may be liable to local tax — and, if you are in doubt about the implications of any potential liability, you should seek advice.

The contract is an International Eagle Bond issued by Eagle Star (International Life) Limited, an insurance company which does not, and is not authorised to carry on in any part of the United Kingdom, business of the class to which this advertisement relates. This means that the management and solvency of the company are not supervised by the United Kingdom Government Department. Holders of policies issued by the company will not be protected by the Policyholders Protection Act 1975 if the company should become unable to meet its liabilities to them.

Eagle Star (International Life) Limited is registered and has its principal office at Barclays House, Victoria Street, Douglas, Isle of Man.

As a member of the World-Wide Eagle Star Group, Eagle Star (International Life) Limited has the full financial backing of its parent company.

To: Bowring Tyson (I.O.M.) Limited, Victory House, Prospect Hill, Douglas, Isle of Man. Telephone: (0624) 23841/25013. Please send, without delay, full details of the offshore guaranteed growth bond. I understand that this will place me under no obligation whatsoever.

Name: Address: Postcode:

I am interested in a Sterling or Dollar contract: ☐ Please tick appropriate. I am interested in the alternative contract with the currency hedge: ☐

Approximate amount available for investment: £/US \$

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TT 31/12/83

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The Rate of interest is set weekly and published daily in Prestel and in the Base Rate Section of the Financial Times.

*Interest Rates quoted correct at time of going to press.

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M&G was the first unit trust management company to develop a range of funds specialising in different parts of the world, and its expertise in this field is widely acknowledged. M&G International Growth Fund has a portfolio of shares selected internationally, reducing the inevitable risk of concentration in any one geographical area.

The Fund was originally called M&G Magnum but this has now been changed to reflect more accurately its aim and nature. At present the UK is the largest individual sector but this may well be reduced in the light of developments in other parts of the world.

THE FUND'S RECORD OF GROWTH

An investment of £10,000 at its launch in December 1967 had grown in value to £86,010 by 21st December 1983, including reinvested income. By comparison a similar investment in the F.T. All Share Index, adjusted for reinvestment of income, would have grown to £64,151 over the same period.

Unit trusts are for long-term investment and not suitable for money you may need at short notice. This is because the price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up.

NEW OFFER — THE ADVANTAGE OF INVESTING BEFORE 22nd FEBRUARY 1984

Applications for units received on or before 22nd February 1984 will bear a preliminary charge of only 3½%. After 22nd February the preliminary charge will be increased to 5%, to bring it into line with other M&G unit trusts and, indeed, the level of charges applicable to unit trusts in general. So there is a clear advantage in not delaying your investment.

Further Information: On 21st December 1983 the estimated current gross yield was 3.01% at an offered price for Accumulation units of 860.1p. Prices and yields appear daily in the F.T. The preliminary charge already described is included in the offered price; an annual charge of up to 1% (currently limited to ¾%) plus VAT of the Fund's value is deducted from gross income. Distributions on income units are paid net of basic rate tax on 20th March and 20th September. The next distribution for new investors will be 20th March 1984, provided your application is received before 27th January 1984. You can buy or sell units on any business day. Contracts for purchase or sale will be due for settlement two or three weeks later. Remuneration is payable to accredited agents; rates are available on request. Trustees: Barclays Bank Trust Company Limited.

The Fund is a wider range investment and is authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

M&G Securities Limited, Three Quays, Tower Hill, London EC3R 6BQ. Telephone: 01-626 4588.

NEW OFFER CLOSES 22nd FEBRUARY

All applications received by 22nd February 1984 will bear a preliminary charge of only 3½%. After 22nd February this charge will be increased to 5%.

To: M&G SECURITIES LIMITED, THREE QUAYS, TOWER HILL, LONDON EC3R 6BQ. TELEPHONE: 01-626 4588.

DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY. (A contract note will be sent to you stating exactly how much you owe and the settlement date. Your certificate will follow shortly.)

PLEASE INVEST £ in ACCUMULATION/INCOME Units (delete as applicable or Accumulation units will be issued) at the price ruling on receipt of this application in the M&G International Growth Fund. (Minimum £1,000.)

02 FULL FORENAME(S)

SURNAME (Mr/Ms/Ms/Ms)

04 ADDRESS

POST CODE

00 01 480014

DATE

SIGNATURE

Population England 1976 Reg. Office as above. This offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland.



FAMILY MONEY

Advice from home

A service to be launched in the New Year will provide specialist advice and assistance to British expatriates.

Mr David Young, first editor of *Resident Abroad*, the Financial Times magazine for expatriates, is joined in this venture by Mr John Birch, former managing director of Employment Conditions Abroad.

The company has a team of specialist consultants on call including Mr Alex McWhirter (travel advisor), Mr Dick Challinor-Davies (education), Mr Christopher Philpotts (political and diplomatic consultant), General Richard Clutterbuck (personal and corporate security advisor) and Mr David Celland, (international pensions consultant). They aim to provide a wide service including advice on financial planning, property, pensions and the intricacies of National Insurance contributions and reciprocal tax arrangements.

Further details from the Expatriate Consultancy, Fitzwilliam House, 32 Trumpington Street, Cambridge, CB2 1QY.

Saving years

A £20 a month third issue Save As You Earn contract reaching its fifth anniversary on tomorrow will have a cash value of £1,517.43. This is equivalent to an annual return over the five years of 9.32 per cent. A £20 a month contract reaching its seventh anniversary will have a cash value of £1,945.80 including the bonus of two monthly payments. This is equivalent to an annual return over seven years of 10.96 per cent.

Holiday insurance

Basic information on holiday insurance and taking a car abroad is contained in the latest leaflet from the British Insurance Association called *Holiday Insurance*.

The BIA says: "Insurance is a vital part of planning a holiday. About 50 per cent of claims are for expenses arising out of cancellation of holiday arrangements and the message is clear — check that you have adequate cover when you book your holiday and not just before you go." Send a stamped addressed envelope to Department T, British Insurance Association, Aldermar House, Queen Street, London EC4N 1TU, for a free copy of the leaflet.

Dial a debt

Having difficulty collecting money owing to you? Then learn effective debt collection at a half-day seminar run by the business information company Dun & Bradstreet.

The company says: "With proper know-how, the telephone is one of the most effective weapons in a company's debt collection armoury." The seminars which take place next month and in February, will be conducted by a telephone communications expert, Miss Pauline Maindine, and are aimed at improving debt collecting techniques. Further information from Dun & Bradstreet's Business Education Division.

Holiday savings

Free holidays for children and their parents are being offered by Lloyds Bank in a Black Horse Young Savers competition. Anyone under 16 on January 31 with at least £30 in a Black Horse Young Savers Account is eligible to take part.

Contestants have to answer six questions — two on the subject of Florida, two on Lloyds Bank, and two on the bank of England. They must also complete the sentence: "I think it is important to save because..." in not more than 25 words.

Four top prizes are two-week holidays in Florida with the winners being able to take their parents and any brothers or sisters under 16. Details from Lloyds branches.



Stamps for charity

Abbey National branches will be accepting used postage stamps in January to raise funds for the National Autistic Society, a charity in its 21st year which helps to educate and support autistic children. Every Abbey National investor with a Junior Saver account has been asked to help but stamps will be accepted from any source.



Property list

Investment in small workshops of up to 2,500 sq ft has afforded tax relief of up to 100 per cent of the capital expenditure since 1980.

This has been used by many higher-rate taxpayers as a way of cutting their income tax bill. But the problem is to find a suitable building before the end of the current tax year. A list of these properties is now available from the IBA Register. It is posted to investors, accountants and estate agents for £10 annually, with a monthly update. Vendors pay an advertising fee if the property is sold to an IBA Register subscriber.

Moreover, the publishers do not investigate the investment potential of the properties listed and warn would-be purchasers to make sure that the property is what the sellers claim it is. But the list does provide a clearing house, putting buyers and sellers in touch. Details: IBA Register, 12 Scott Road, Hove, BN3 5HN.

Leeds smiles

Leeds Permanent Building Society has increased its mortgage lending allocations by 20 per cent in an attempt to cut loan queues at branches. Mr Peter Hemmingsway, its chief general manager, said: "Demand for mortgages which normally declines at this time of year has remained high. The increased lending will, hopefully, satisfy demand and so this will pave the way for a possible reduction in interest rates in the not too distant future."

Non-smokers' bonus

If you are wavering over a decision to give up cigarettes as a new year's resolution, remember it could save you money when it comes to life insurance. Many of the leading life insurance companies offer significant discounts to those who shun cigarettes or limit their smoking to cigars and pipes.

A man facing 40 next birthday looking for a five year term assurance of £50,000 can cut his gross monthly premium from £137.46 to £92.80 with Yorkshire General or from £100.80 to £80.40 with Sun Life.

Fires cost £37m

The cost of fires in November was £36.5m, with 14 fires each causing more than £25,000 worth of damage. One fire, at a goods depot in Yorkshire, cost £12.5m.

Warning to women

St Christopher Motorists' Security Association, which insures drivers against losing their licences, has a New Year message for all women sitting as chauffeurs to their male companions during the party season: Remember you have to be twice as careful as a man when you drink.

"Women are often 50 per cent lighter than the man and alcohol has a greater chemical effect on their metabolism," said Mr Martin O'Neill, a spokesman for the association. "My advice is to take a taxi or there should be a fair taxi-up as to who drinks and who drives. Often a woman's loss of licence can have a more devastating effect on the home because of school runs and shopping."

Act before 5th April for a 10% initial bonus + up to 12 months' tax relief

M&G Capital Builder Plan (for people aged 55 and under) and M&G Investment Builder Plan (for those of 56 or more) are designed for investors who wish to build up capital. Because the plans include life assurance cover, M&G reclaim tax and add it to your payments; this means that in almost all cases you get more than 100% invested. You can increase this benefit and get off to a good start by backdating your plan.

Furthermore M&G will add 10 percentage points to the figures in the table for your first year's premium if you send in the form for a backdated plan before 5th April 1984.

People aged 55 or under can backdate a plan by up to 12 months, and so can anyone aged 56 who backdates a plan to start before his 56th birthday. If you are 57 or more, you can backdate by up to 3 months.

Your money is invested in the M&G Bond Fund chosen from the list in the application form. You can switch from one Fund to another at any time, subject to a small fee (currently £10). The future value of your plan will depend on your starting age and the performance of the Fund you choose, as unit prices will fluctuate with the value of the assets held in the Fund. If a man of 35 started a £20 net a month plan and the unit price grew on average by 10% p.a., he could expect to receive £14,440 after 20 years for a total net outlay of £4,800.

Effective age at start	Percentage of each monthly payment available for investment		
	£16-£19	£20-£39	£40 upwards
Up to 35	114.1%	117.6%	121.1%
36-45	112.9%	116.4%	120.0%
46-50	110.5%	114.1%	117.6%
51-55	108.9%	109.4%	112.9%
56-62	98.8%	102.3%	105.8%
63-65	102.3%	105.8%	108.4%
66-75	108.2%	111.7%	115.2%

NOTES: The percentages apply to both men and women, and assume acceptance on normal terms and tax relief at 15%. If the rate changes, the net amount you pay will change accordingly. Percentages for intermediate ages fall between the figures shown and are available on request.

You can benefit from tax relief provided your total life assurance premiums do not exceed the greater of £1,500 p.a. or one-sixth of your total income.

The plan provides immediate life cover: Capital Builder — 15 times your gross annual premium (i.e. the amount you pay plus tax relief); Investment Builder — 75% of your gross annual premium multiplied by the number of years to go before you reach the age of 75. Your first two years' premiums buy capital units; subsequent premiums buy Accumulation units. The offered price of both units include a 5% initial charge. There is an annual charge of currently ¾% for Accumulation units and 5% for Capital units. Although you can cash in your plan at any time after you have paid one year's premiums you are recommended not to do so for at least four years, to avoid a forfeit of tax relief. Accumulation units are always encashed for their bid value; there is a deduction from Capital units on early encashment which reduces to nil after 10 years, e.g. you would receive 68% of their value after two years, increasing by 4% for each subsequent year. Accumulation unit prices are reported daily in the Financial Times and Capital unit prices are available from M&G on request. You have no personal liability to tax on capital gains but higher-rate taxpayers are advised to continue payments for at least 10 years, for tax reasons. Tax payable by the Company on capital gains is reflected in the price of units. Actual rights as between policyholders and the Company will be governed solely by the terms of the policy and a specimen policy form is available on request.

M&G LIFE, THREE QUAYS, TOWER HILL, LONDON EC3R 6BQ. Tel: 01-626 4588.

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NAME (delete as applicable)
SURNAME (delete as applicable)
ADDRESS
POST CODE
TELEPHONE AND NATURE OF BUSINESS
DATE OF BIRTH
DAY MONTH YEAR
DATE

Please send Fund selected, otherwise your policy will be linked to Managed Bond.

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JAPAN
MANAGED
PROPERTY
RECOVERY

To: M&G LIFE, THREE QUAYS, TOWER HILL, LONDON EC3R 6BQ. TELEPHONE: 01-626 4588.

DECLARATION If you cannot sign Part B below delete it and sign Part A only.

PART A I DECLARE that the premiums will be paid by myself or by my spouse and the payer of the premiums will be resident in the U.K. I consent to M&G Life seeking information concerning my physical or mental health from any doctor who has attended me or sending information from any insurance office to which a proposal has been made for insurance on my life and I authorize the giving of such information. Any declaration made by me in connection with this proposal shall be the basis of the contract between me and M&G Life Assurance Company Limited.

PART B I DECLARE that to the best of my belief I am in good health and free from disease. I have not had any serious illness or major operation. I do not engage in any hazardous sports or pursuits and no proposal on my life has ever been adversely treated. (You must disclose all facts likely to influence assessment of this proposal. If you are in doubt as to the relevance of any particular information you should declare it as failure to do so may affect the benefits payable.)

Do you have an existing M&G policy? YES/NO

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FAMILY MONEY edited by Lorna Bourke

Divorce Bill

'Self-sufficiency' can lead to maintenance cuts

The Government's new Divorce Bill, expected to become law by early spring, has run into opposition from single-parent family groups. They are against its proposals on child support - or, more to the point, the lack of it. To be sure, the Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Bill is a bit of a dog's dinner.

It deals with a number of separate issues - allowing a split after one year of marriage, for instance (that has upset the clergy), promoting the concept of a "clean break" between the divorcing partners and snuffing the whole thing by claiming it is putting the interests of children first. But is it?

Mr Paul Collins at One-Parent Families, says: "Of course, we are all for putting children first. But we want substance, not rhetoric."

And the Bill is indeed rather short when it comes to explaining just how this admirable principle should be established, raising doubts that it is a pretence for reducing the amount of maintenance.

Just saying it's in the interests of the children is simply not enough, points out Robbie Robson at Gingerbread. She believes single parents might end up with even less maintenance when the new Bill comes into force.

Traditionally, courts seem to award rather low sums for child maintenance. And whoever thinks that offspring are not quite as expensive to keep as an adult simply has not done the sums.

So, even if the courts are instructed under the Bill to deal with child maintenance first, there is no guarantee this will result in more money being paid. But there was an important amendment recently, announced by Lord Hailsham in the Lords, that will provide courts with the criteria on which to base child maintenance orders.

The guidelines will be those of the National Foster Care Association: an order would start at £26 a week for a child aged up to four, rising to £46 a week for a 16 or 17-year-old.

We are born with domicile and we shall die with domicile. For all but a few this will be the same one, even in cases where the greater part of a working lifetime has been spent somewhere else. It is, therefore, a very tenacious animal.

Domicile is of principal concern in capital transfer tax since the taxation of income depends on whether its source is in Britain in which case it is always taxable no matter who receives the income, or if it is remitted to Britain.

However, it should not be forgotten that all income arising anywhere must be reported on tax returns by anyone who is both domiciled and resident in Britain for the tax year in question. Despite popular mythology, the remittance basis cannot apply to anyone who is domiciled in Britain except in extreme cases where it can be demonstrated that the income cannot be remitted.

So difficult is it to be rid of



This may solve one problem - the fact that registrars as well as spouses often do not realize the cost of keeping a child. But again, the actual amount is in the hands of the courts.

Gingerbread is still worried that overall single-parent family support might be reduced by the Bill. Robbie Robson says: "The court might award so much to the children and it could be a low figure and then pay a smaller amount to a mother on the grounds that she should be self-sufficient." And it is the principle of self-sufficiency that appears to many to be the thin end of a controversial wedge.

There have been soothing words from the Government to the effect that self-sufficiency (which replaces the notion that a wife is entitled to be kept for life) is only to be applied "where appropriate" and is not intended to hinder single parents bringing up children.

"If this is the intention," asks Robbie Robson, "why didn't they write this into the Bill in the first place?" She believes it will affect legal agreements.

Mothers will be persuaded that it is what the law actually intends, therefore they will not fight.

Fair enough, but the spectre of self-sufficiency has had the odd result of uniting the "Jam and Jerusalem" lobby, that thinks marriage is a job for life, with the feminists who have frequently said that it should not be.

Robbie Robson adds: "They

are saying 'Here's the Bill, you've got equality, now get on with it. It's putting the cart before the horse. The facts are that women give up a great deal to raise children; they lose out on their careers. Men generally speaking don't really share the burdens of child care equally in our society. If they did, there would be a day nursery on every street corner.' She thinks it is wrong to establish the principle of self-sufficiency while inequalities between men and women persist.

Looked at from the practical point of view, however, will the Bill have any effect? According to one survey, only 6 per cent of wives rely on maintenance payments as their main source of financial support. Moreover, the single-parent family groups, have never really regarded private maintenance as the answer to their clients' financial problems. Why, then, all the fuss about the Bill?

What seems to have irritated them more than anything is the implication that single parents are alimony drones (the Law Commission inadvertently used the term in its original 1981 treatise). So the Bill is seen as a middle-class male backlash, concocted by a Prime Minister who is a second wife, a Lord Chancellor who was divorced and trumpeted by a media dominated, I was reliably informed by one single-parent group's representative, by a bunch of divorced backs.

Margaret Drummond

Domicile Long arm of the Revenue

domicile that it is well-nigh impossible to sandwich a period of non-domicile between two other periods. Thus, even where people go abroad with the intention of staying in another country for the rest of their days if circumstances dictate that they return to the United Kingdom, it is highly unlikely that they will be judged as having been domiciled anywhere but Britain for the whole period.

This produces some curious results, particularly for capital transfer tax. The legislation has

been so written that the principle of cumulation would apply to gifts of property made while resident abroad.

If an Arab living in Saudi Arabia wants to give to his son, also living in Saudi Arabia, a chunk of the Dorchester Hotel in London which he just happens to own, he is obliged to make a CTT return to the British tax authorities.

If all else fails, the Inland Revenue always has the S.478 of the Taxes Act 1970 to attack the returning expatriate. This gives the Revenue the right to tax a British resident on the income of an overseas person over whom he is deemed to have control.

For example, passing over assets before returning to Britain not only counts as a gift for CTT purposes, but may still make the income from them liable to income tax.

Under British law, you take the domicile of your father at birth and can do nothing about it until you come of age.

Insurance

Benefits of accident and health cover

The horrible injuries suffered by the victims of the Harrods car bomb and those who have been maimed by drunken Christmas drivers, bring home all too powerfully the unpleasant fact that we are three times more likely to be injured or disabled than we are to die prematurely.

Yet accident and disability insurance has one of the lowest take-ups of all types of insurance and permanent health insurance is often considered a luxury.

Both accident and permanent health insurance provide benefits if a person is injured and unable to work but they are very different types of policies.

Accident and disability policies tend to be annual contracts - the sort where you pay a premium and the insurer has no responsibility to continue the cover after one year if he no longer wants to insure the risk.

Personal accident policies usually pay a lump sum for accidental death, loss of one or more limbs or eyes, with lesser amounts for the loss of fingers or toes. They may also pay a weekly sum for temporary or permanent total disablement for a maximum of 104 weeks.

The Pru, for example, sells a policy which offers £10,000 accidental death benefit plus £10,000 for loss of an eye or loss of a limb (more generous than loss of a limb). There is also £200-week benefit for up to 104 weeks for temporary total disablement, or £10 a week for temporary partial disablement, premium for someone in a sedentary occupation would be £15 a year occupation would be £15 a year.

If you think £10,000 is not enough, you can buy more £10,000 units up to a maximum of £50,000 worth of lump sum cover and £100 weekly benefit. This would work out at an annual premium of £75.

Since premiums are based on occupation, the danger is that if

you change your job and do something considered to be more of a risk, the insurer could refuse cover.

Permanent health insurance offers much wider protection, paying a regular weekly sum for the rest of your working life if you are unable to work - either through accident, disablement or sickness. But more important, it is a lifelong contract, and provided you pay the premium, the insurer is obliged to continue with the cover once you have been accepted.

Mr Laurie Harding of the Pru says: "People are much more likely to be injured in an accident than to be killed outright and we have some statistics that show that people are three times more likely to be injured or disabled than to die prematurely."

Permanent health cover also provides benefits when you are ill - not necessarily as a result of an accident - and unable to work. The Pru and Norwich Union offer cover for non-working wives as well.

Few companies are prepared to insure wives or other non-working dependants and both the Pru and Norwich Union restrict maximum cover for a working wife to £2,000 a year and £2,500 respectively.

Permanent health cover can be expensive unless you are prepared to accept a "deferral" period - a waiting time between being off work through illness and the start of the benefits.

Most people in white collar jobs will continue to receive their salary for some weeks - often months - if they are sick, so you can afford to defer your benefit payments. For a 13-week deferral period, cover for a non-working wife of 40, benefit payable to age 60 at a rate of £50 a week, would cost £68.67 a year. Benefit of £150 a week for a man aged 45, payable to age 65, works out at £230.50 a year.

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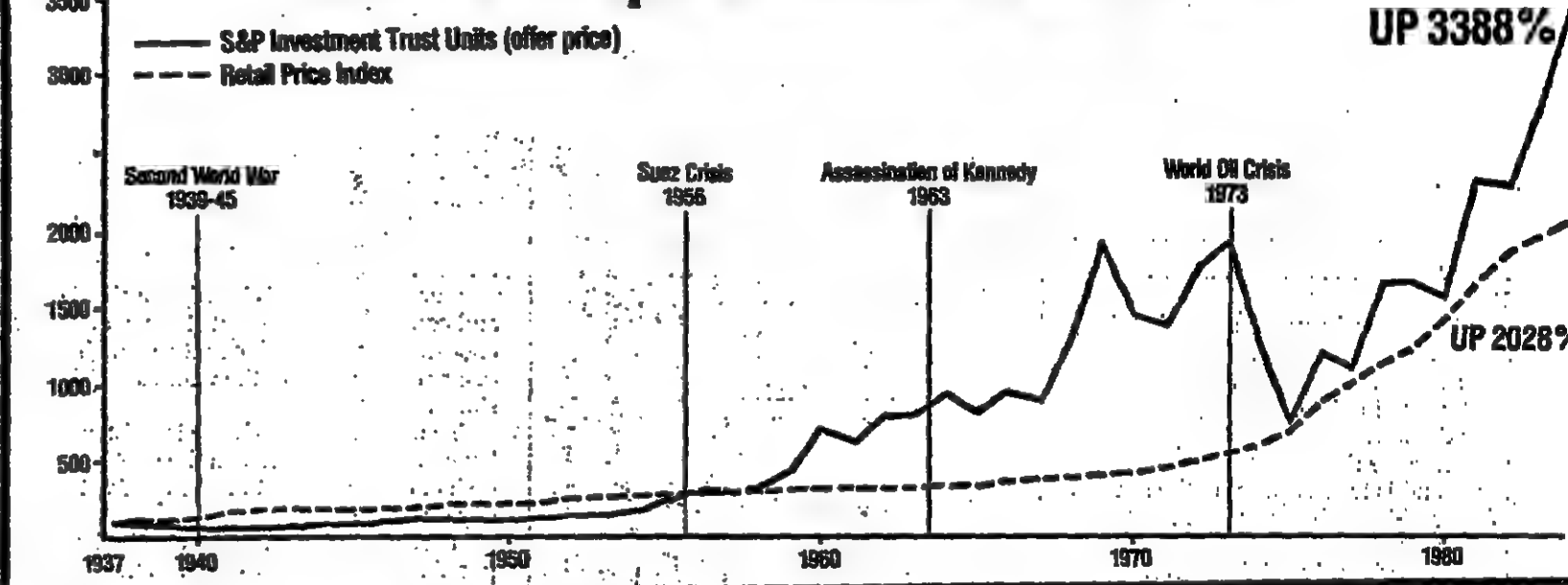
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The fund provides an unequalled spread of investment currently covering more than 100 investment trusts. A high proportion of investment trusts' assets are invested in shares in North America and Japan. These two economies are the "locomotive" force behind the present world recovery.

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A key feature of ITU is that the fund managers can now switch assets from one country to another quickly, due in part to the major changes of recent years which have brought an increasing availability of attractive specialist trusts.

Excellent performance

The fund's overall record has been outstanding. Recent performance is, however, the most relevant. In the year to 20th December 1983 the offer price of units rose by 32.3%, compared with a 21.3% rise in the FTA All-Share Index, and over the last 4 years by 135.7% against 99.7% in the FTA All-Share Index.

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We believe that prospects for investment trust shares are good, now that steps have been taken to remedy the difficulties faced during the 1970s. These problems resulted in a widening of the average discount between asset value and share price from 3.5% in 1972 to 35% in 1978. With the average discount now 25%, there is every reason to believe that current and future changes will have continued beneficial effects on share prices.

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today's investors. The removal of capital gains tax in 1980 for investment trusts has enabled and encouraged their managements to adopt more flexible and aggressive policies. Now that the world is moving out of recession, in our opinion the investment trust sector is well positioned to profit in the 1980s.

About Save & Prosper

Founded in 1934, Save & Prosper is Britain's largest unit trust group and a major force in life assurance, pensions and annuities. On 1st December 1983 the Group managed funds of £1,800 million.

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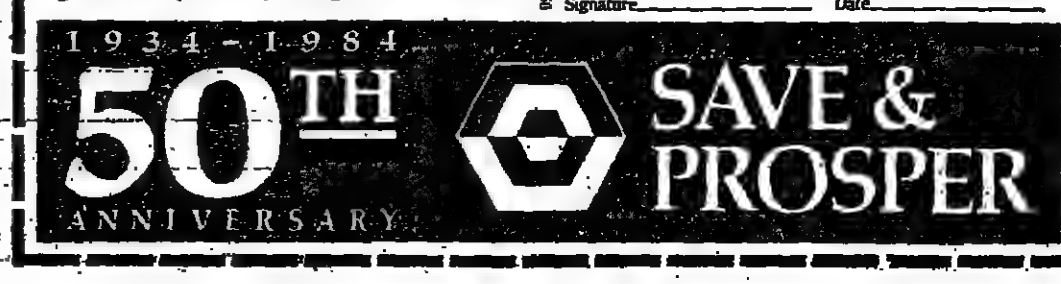
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FAMILY MONEY edited by Lorna Bourke

Investment forecasts

For 1984 read Japan all the way

This time last year we asked some financial experts to give their views on 1983 - what opportunities or pitfalls did they foresee for investors? Although it has been a vintage year for virtually all world stock markets, our panel of professionals did not exactly give some first-class advice.

First prize must go to Mr Stuart Goldsmith, investment director of the Britannia Unit Trust Group, who recommended its Hong Kong Performance Fund. That turned out to be one of the year's worst performers. His other selections did better, though not spectacularly well. Investors will have seen gains of about a quarter in Britannia's American Smaller Companies Fund and Special Situation Trust. And his other selection, the Britannia World Technology Trust, had grown by 38 per cent over the year.

But Mr Goldsmith was not the only one of our experts to get his predictions wrong. Mr Richard Katz of Rothschilds pronounced himself "very bullish" about gold and this has been a tale of woe for most of the year. The price is now \$389 an ounce, compared with \$474 at the time he tipped it.

Mr Michael Hether of Abbey Life was clearly worried about 1983. He thought the period of real returns for investors would be over by now.

So what is going to happen this time? Mr Chris Tracey, managing director of Save and Prosper Investment Management, had no hesitation in plumping for his group's Japan Smaller Companies Fund as his runaway selection for 1984.

"I still believe the yen is undervalued. We also feel that the recovery in Japanese corporate profits is coming later than in the US and the UK. We will see the recovery coming through in 1984. I like the smaller companies because it's new for Japan where the Ministry of Finance is now actively encouraging them."

Elsewhere, he thinks things are far less certain, particularly in the US, where he believes there could be further weakness on Wall Street. Like most of the other experts I talked to, he hedges all his predictions with the possibility of a wholesale Orwellian-style crash next year, caused by Third World debts.

Mr Tony Mortimer, investment director of merchant bank Kleinwort Benson, says there are really many imponderables for 1984.

"I think the technology area in the US is interesting not withstanding the possibility of a weakening dollar. But the yen is a good currency to be in and the Japanese economy should do well next year."

In the UK the outlook for sensible wage settlements is good. The problem is that all world stock markets are high at present. My policy is to buy individual stocks not sectors. I also feel that by the autumn of 1984, stock markets will have gone just about as far as they are going to go.

Mr Adrian Collins of Gartmoor recommends caution. "I can't see them making the same fabulous amount of profits that were made in 1983. I would be tempted to take some profits."



national growth fund, mainly invested at the moment in Japan and the US.

Mr Malcolm Hughes, general manager of Nationwide Building Society, sees house prices rising quite sharply - by as much as 14 to 15 per cent.

"House prices follow average earnings and since average earnings are rising well above inflation, the upward trend in house prices will speed up. At the moment, we have strong demand for mortgages and I see no reduction in the mortgage rate for at least the first quarter of the year."

We will find out about the new National Savings target in April, and that will give some indication on mortgage rate cuts. At the moment, National Savings is fiercely competitive so any reduction in the rate to savers would mean an immediate drying-up of our funds, as happened in early 1983."

Mr Sid Lipworth, of Hambro Life, thinks property may be showing some sign of firming up in 1984, but he also picks Allied Japan and Allied American Special Situations. Japan is also a firm favourite with independent investment manager Mr Anthony Wieler, but he also likes the look of South East Asia, too.



The experts (from left) - Tracey: you understand; Hughes: housing top value; Collins: global strategy and Lipworth: Japan and US allied choices.

Savings

Decision time for index-linked bonds

Holders of index-linked National Savings certificates, (formerly known as Granny Bonds) who had been hanging on until the end of October to qualify for the 2.4 per cent tax-free bonus, have now to make up their minds whether to stick it out or to take their cash and move elsewhere.

NSB has reinforced the waning attraction of "grannies", brought about

by lower inflation rates, by adding another 2.4 per cent for those holders who keep their bonds for a further year. Compounded up, this gives slightly more than a 4.8 bonus for those who hold on for the full two years - on top of the index-linked increase, which is at present running at 4.8 per cent itself, but likely to move over 5 per cent per annum.

Non-taxpayers should

definitely make a move. The 11 per cent return on the NSB Investment Account is far better than anything which can be expected from index-linked savings certificates over the coming year. If income is not a priority, the new Deposit Bond from National Savings with a minimum investment of £500 offers an extra 0.5 per cent at 11.5 per cent but it is not so

flexible as NSB Investment Account. Higher rate taxpayers should definitely stay put. Inflation is expected to run at around 6.5 to 7 per cent over the coming year which will give a return of around 9 to 9.5 per cent taking into account the 2.4 per cent bonus. This is tax-free and better than the after-tax return from any comparable investment.

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Entertainment Investors go for record profits

The glamour of the entertainment industry often attracts investment on the most spurious of grounds. Most fund-raising schemes in the sector would not see daylight if they had to meet the criteria of usual City or banking requirements.

But the world of pop music is often able to generate funds on a basis where commonsense is lost somewhere between the wrinkle in a potential 'angel's' eyes and the signing of a cheque.

A lease and asset financing broker, Mr Cyril Gillis, found himself arranging the finance for recording studio and video facilities when he discovered the money-making potential of a successful pop group.

He manages an off-the-shelf company called Numberdown, an unfortunate name for a promoter attempting to get records up the charts, and is successfully selling 100,000 £1-shares for an equity stake under the tax advantages of the Government's Business Expansion Scheme.

So far the wealthy patrons have been "mainly stockbrokers and farmers," said Mr Gillis. Numberdown, just four months old, has no assets other than its Surrey offices and a 10 per cent of gross contract with its first rock group, called England, which has just released its first single, *Victoriana*.

The group is in the process of making a double album. Counting studio time, 10-weeks in England's case, it will cost between £20,000 and £40,000 to get the project on tape.

When that is completed Mr Gillis hopes to have the band signed by a major record company which would then release the records.

A successful group can gross between £14m and £15m over a five-year period, working on the assumption that two albums a year are successful and that there are enough singles-chart hits to maintain support.

But Numberdown is a make or break investment. As Mr Gillis admits, there may be no return on the project. England will not be the only band in which Numberdown invests and he hopes to involve the company in studios and record manufacturing.

Margaret Drummond

Wayne Lintott

How to make a profit in 1984

The major equity markets have provided excellent returns to the astute investor over the last two years. However, with markets at current high levels, profitable investments will be harder to identify in 1984. Uncertainty surrounding interest rates and currencies will undoubtedly complicate the issue. The recipe for success will be timing and active management - to make profits and protect them.

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Savings

Gateway to a Gold Star account

Imitation is supposed to be the sincerest form of flattery, but in the competitive world of building society investment accounts it sometimes causes a few ruffled feathers.

The Gateway, fifteenth largest society in the country, is launching a Gold Star account which pays 1 per cent above standard rate without conditions - no notice and no withdrawal penalty.

The minimum investment is £1,000; but accounts with more than £5,000 qualify for monthly interest payments, which lifts the net rate of interest from 8.25 to an effective 8.75 per cent. If the balance falls below £1,000, interest is paid at 7.25 per cent.

The Cheltenham and Gloucester, the twelfth biggest, believes this is a copy of Cheltenham's Gold Account. A spokesman said: "We don't take exception to it. But it is a straight crib. The terms are identical - even the name is a straight pitch."

Cheltenham Gold was extremely successful when it was launched in April 1981. So many savers opted for the bonus that the account was suspended six months later for two months.

Mr Alan North, Gateway's assistant general manager, said: "We feel that it is the sort of account that is right for Gateway."

Mortgages

Building societies plan 20% lending rise

Four of the top five building societies said yesterday that they expect to increase their lending by around 20 per cent in 1984, and in some cases much more.

If a rise of a fifth were repeated across the industry, as seems likely, total society lending in the coming year could top £23,000m for the first time.

WHAT THE SOCIETIES SAY

HALIFAX: Expects to increase its probable 1983 lending figure of £3.6 billion by more than 20 per cent.

ABBEY NATIONAL: Will lend £2.1 billion in 1983 and intends to lend £2.7 billion in 1984.

NATIONWIDE: Will maintain a high monthly lending level of between £130m and £140m.

LEEDS: Definitely going to increase lending by 20 per cent.

WOOLWICH: The 1984 target of £1.3 billion is 25 per cent up on 1983's £1,048m.

Even allowing for a probable increase in house prices of 10 per cent, the rise is still substantial. It compares with 119,000m lent this year and just £13,000m in 1982.

The number of loans advanced during the last two years have increased from 861,000 to about 950,000. And if the upper limit of lending potential is reached, the 1984 total should

easily top one million for the first time.

For home buyers, a fairly complex set of new rules applies. Although building societies generally - and there are about 200 around the country - are still reporting strong demand for loans, there are regional differences in waiting times.

Mr Peter Hemingway, Leeds chief general manager, said that queues vary from four to 12 weeks around his 400 branches - with potential borrowers in Scotland having to wait longer than those in the South of England.

The Leeds, however, has been lending slightly more than 50 per cent of its money to first-time buyers in the past year.

The Woolwich, on the other hand, with two thirds of its 380 branches south of Oxford, yesterday reported demands strong as ever, but added: "Queues are virtually non-existent - down to about the four weeks it takes to clear up all the legal bits and pieces."

Brandishing what it sees as a trump card - held also by Nationwide among the top five - a flat 11½ per cent interest rate no matter how large the loan, the Woolwich was even tempted to suggest that active marketing of mortgages may return by late spring or the summer.

Not surprisingly, it is also suggesting that the main factor that new borrowers must



Rising demand: More home-lending should keep queues down in 1984.

consider in the coming year will be how much they pay for their new mortgages.

This certainly applies in Greater London. The average loan of one of its main competitors in that sector up to October was £25,546 even to first-time buyers - which would push the interest rate to 11½ per cent. A loan of £40,000 might cost more than 13 per cent.

A smaller society serving the same area has a differential that starts at £12,500, which would mean that at £25,000-plus (and perhaps even lower) the rate would be 12½ per cent.

A straw poll among senior managers in the top five shows that what will happen to interest rates in 1984 remains "anyone's guess" - with the high US interest rates still seen as a factor by many, but with the highly competitive National Savings rates for investments being watched very closely.

The societies themselves have come in for criticism for making their own investment inducements too attractive, but they are making them even more appealing.

They have recently had record inflows: worth £987m in

October and £870m in November, compared with £763m and £490m in November and December (traditionally a quiet month for savers, of course) last year.

Another complicating factor may be that the big banks will move back slightly into the mortgage market - although in nothing like the fashion in which they competed for home loans in 1982, when they took 36 per cent of the business.

On the other hand, the demand for money for council house purchases - which num-

bered about 80,000 in 1983 - is expected to level off. However, the increase in general economic activity is already being reflected in a push towards buying more expensive homes, even though the current high level of house-building may be pegged back a little in 1984.

Having virtually been trying to pull people off the streets to borrow in 1981 and in the first part of 1982, the societies saw November of the latter year produce a record in terms of new commitments, of £1,769m. March this year was a peak £1,905m, but November's was still £1,836m - with demand continuing to grow.

The substantial injection of new funds is undoubtedly a move to cut queues, without necessarily chopping rates - which some lending societies, nevertheless, would like to see fall, as soon as demand looks as though it may be satisfied. They insist that, even at 11½ per cent, their loans are not expensive.

But they have an ulterior motive: to reduce liquidity ratios, so that assets can earn more than they can when placed outside their "home" market. The seasonally-adjusted ratio - which measures liquid against total assets - stood at 18.8 per cent at the end of 1982.

However, with the way things are going, it could fall below its lowest-ever point (of 17.4 per cent) in 1984.

John Lawless

Tax shelters

New Year spree for workshops

An increasing number of people are setting out with New Year's resolutions - to buy a small workshop - the sort that qualifies for a 100 per cent capital allowance.

The industrial building allowance (IBA) which was introduced by the 1980 Finance Act, has created a thriving market for these tax shelters.

Now there is a list of suitable properties available to investors, accountants, and estate agents for a £10 fee. The IBA register gives outline details of the workshops; inquiries are given the name, address and telephone number of the developer, or selling agent, so they can negotiate directly.

The December list of 136 IBA workshops ranges from a £543,000 complex in Dartford, Kent, with two units of 1,805 sq ft and three units at 2,375 sq ft, to a workshop in Wincanton, Somerset, with two units of 600 sq ft for £16,250.

The IBA register is published by Mercorak, Hove, Sussex.

Mr Brett Hoskins, chairman of Mercorak, said that the register was launched because the scramble for tax shelters as the financial year drew to a close meant that some investors had to settle for other schemes because they could not find the time to seek out a suitable workshop.

Expansion

Exotic Airleisure brings bounce to fringe market

One of the strangest beneficiaries of the Government's Business Expansion Scheme is about to make its share debut on one of the City's growing collection of fringe, over-the-counter markets.

Licensed dealers Hill Woolgar is launching Airleisure Products on its over-the-counter market after a successful placing among its 1,000 shareholders.

Whether Airleisure is the sort of company the Government had in mind for the scheme is perhaps a matter for conjecture. Nevertheless, Airleisure meets the scheme's requirements even if it is a colourful venture engaged in fields which must seem strange to many of the investors who brought at least partly for tax reasons, its shares.

The group, trading for less than a year, makes exotic products such as disco bouncers and breaker beds.

Breaker beds are inflated dance floors with disco-style colouring and lighting. Aimed at clubs, community centres and hotels this creation is designed for aerobic exercises.

A disco bouncer is a portable contraption on which youngsters combine dance with bouncing.

Investors who have acquired share through the Hill Woolgar placing at 58p each should qualify for the scheme's tax

benefits which could reduce the cost of a £10,000 investment to £4,000. But they must hang on to their shares for five years.

Airleisure is the creation of Mr Michael Cooper, aged 43, who used to run discos and nightclubs. He has a five-year service agreement at £27,500 a year and will collect 5 per cent commission when profits top £400,000. His wife Suzanne, the administration director, has a five year £15,000 a year service contract.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	9%
Barclays	9%
BCCI	9%
Citibank Savings	10½%
Consolidated Credit	9%
Continental Trust	9%
C. Hoare & Co	9%
Lloyds Bank	9%
Midland Bank	9%
Nat Westminster	9%
TSB	9%
Williams & Glyn's	9%

† Airleisure Products.
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RUGBY UNION

Insult of old score added to their newly injured pride has Bristol bristling

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

Bristol, the John Player Cup holders, having overcome an indifferent start to the season, can this afternoon put an unbeaten month behind them as they face 1984. Standing in their way at the Memorial Ground are Llanelli, who are looking for a double after defeating Bristol 33-0 in October at Stradey Park.

There may be an element of injured pride working on Bristol's behalf. Forty-seven players will gather at Twickenham next Saturday for the England trial and only two of them, Barnes at stand-off half and Kibb at centre, are from Bristol. Kibb is a replacement, a status not accorded to Hesford, the No. 8, who returns against Llanelli after recovering from a shoulder injury in the victory over Leicester a fortnight ago.

Llanelli bring a reserve front row across the Severn Bridge, husbanding their resources for the meeting with Newport on Monday. They have rested Douglas today and give Griffiths, a Welsh Youth cap last season, a game at scrum half, but their back division includes four capped players in Gravell, Morgan, Donovan and Pearce.

Fielding seriously weakened teams because of trial demands are Gloucester, Bath and Leicester, who have potentially demanding games today. Gloucester, beaten by Llanelli over Christmas, travel to Bridgend with Sargent, Blake and Orwin restored to their pack; Bath, who are at home to Northampton, restore Trevisks to the left wing and play

Pontypool lock sent off

Pontypool's disciplinary record this season declined further yesterday when Kevin Moseley, their lock, was sent off during the 34-13 victory over Newbridge at the Welfare Ground. Moseley, aged 20, was dismissed after only six minutes by Derek Bevan, the Welsh referee whose handling of the game between the Midlands and the New Zealanders last month attracted considerable praise.

Moseley's offence was dangerous use of the boot following a lineout. In the same match Perkins, Pontypool's international lock, was returning after a month's suspension and a third forward, Steve Jones, has also been sent off this season. The win increases Pontypool's lead at the top of the Welsh merit table.

Gloucester have seven players in the trial, Bath four and Leicester six, one of whom, Woodward, will not be playing in the televised game at Old Deer Park against London Welsh. The England centre

aggravated a leg strain during Leicester's midweek win over Barbarians and will be replaced in an otherwise unchanged side by Hall. The Welsh have Rees, their international left wing, back after a skiing holiday and Bowring, a new Barbarian, in their back row.

Roselyn Park are without an entire first-choice back row for their New Year programme against Bedford today and unbeaten Wasps on Monday. Ripley, Montgomery and Alchurch, the captain, are injured or unavailable, so is Jermyn, the stand-off. Their places go to four newcomers to senior rugby, which suggests Park will have to play very well if they are to match their draw against Wasps at the beginning of this month. Melville, the Wasps captain, will appear again for the second team against Stockwood Park today and will make his first senior appearance of an injury-plagued season on Monday.

There are two London derbies today: Harlequins at home to London Scottish and Richmond at home to Saracens. Richmond will be without Jameson, their South African scrum half, and Evans, their injured hooker, whose place goes to Roland, a debutant.

Midlands derby brings together Nottingham and Nuneaton and could ensure for Nottingham, the host club, a place in the top five of the merit table and automatic inclusion in next season's John Player Cup third round. Nottingham have beaten Moseley, Bedford and Rugby and drawn with Coventry.



Page turns over an old leaf today for Northampton

Romanian acceptance

According to a reliable source in Bucharest Romania have accepted England's invitation for a game at Twickenham on January 5, 1985 (Chris Thau writes). The letter of acceptance was sent several days ago but it has yet reached RFU's headquarters at Twickenham.

The enormous volume of mail handled by both Romanian and British post offices during this period of the year was bound to create delays. The Romanians have said that they cannot afford to reject England's invitation the last of the

four home unions to have decided to play against them. But I understood that they stopped that Romania would need four of five warm up games before the international.

Their mutual reluctance to accept RFU's invitation was the result of adverse climatic conditions which forced the Romanians as well as many other Continental sides to split their domestic season into two halves. In fact there was no rugby played in Romania since late November when the country was covered in snow.

success, having managed to win only one game so far. The second division club, Furest, were lucky and the arrival of their three South Africans gave them the much-needed boost to win three games in a row. However, foreign players have tended to provide only a limited impact on performances of their French clubs. The first division club, Bourg, has dismissed all their New Zealand guests, Dixon, Drake and Collinson, after the club president Michel Penmarch, complained about "the difficulties to recruit professionally and socially players from the other end of the world".

Chris Thau

YACHTING

Condor is winner after a protest

Hobart, (Reuters) - The British-owned yacht Condor was declared winner of the America's Cup race in the Sydney to Hobart ocean race yesterday after the American yacht Nirvana was disqualified. For Condor to win the race, it was the first time in the race's 38-year history that the line honours winner has been disqualified.

A protest jury found that Nirvana failed to give Condor sufficient room as the two yachts swept toward the finish line. Condor ran aground on a reef and was damaged but was able to finish the race.

Bob Ball, the Englishman who owns the Bermuda-registered Condor, said he was disappointed to win in such a manner but maintained that Nirvana deliberately forced his boat aground.

"It is much better to decide things like this on the race course," Ball said. "Unfortunately for some level of racing - and it's shown in the America's Cup often - these things do happen."

Video tape shots from television screens showed Condor and Nirvana heading the 170-strong fleet at the end of the race.

Condor led for most of the 638-mile race but Nirvana snatched the lead in the Derwent River estuary then Condor caught a drift in breeze six miles from the finish.

According to the jury, Condor had safely established an overlap on Nirvana and was moving faster. But Nirvana's crew failed to keep the boat clear. There was also minor contact between the two yachts.

The overall winner on landings was Challenge II, from Victoria. It was not until 3.15 yesterday afternoon that all three members of the British Southern Cross Cup team had finished the race, and retained their third place as a team, behind New Zealand and New South Wales. It was however an anxious wait by Ponds and Indulgence, who finished at 6.16 and 6.56 in the morning, for Jade, who didn't cross the line until 12.12.

When handicaps had been calculated the British team were placed 12th, 13th and 25th, which was sufficient to keep them two points ahead of Hong Kong.

The British performance was very disappointing. It seems that Jade, the smallest yacht of the three, lost ground on the first night out of Sydney, and was never able to make up the deficit.

Condor was the first to cross the line, New South Wales 4th, New Zealand 5th, and the British team 12th, 13th and 25th.

Gordon Allan

1984: The end of civilization as we know it

I think that 1984 is going to be the worst year sport has ever had. In fact, it would surprise me if organized sport came to an end altogether. It is saying that, I am trying my hardest to look at the bright side, bearing in mind that many people feel that 1984 will be a year of disaster. It is a year of disaster, even if you have spent the previous 30 years on a bed of nails.

Now it is no use peep-poking my pessimism because you think that 1984 is a year of disaster. The world game, as it is called, is a year of disaster. It might not be such a bad thing if football did come to an end. For what makes up football as we know it? Well, it is the game that makes us play that often becomes duller the more it approaches international level; players who believe they see gods when they look in the mirror; and supporters who hoot and cheer, and on some occasions, even throw things at the players.

Despondency

For a long time, fewer and fewer people have been going to matches. By next Christmas, according to my crystal ball, nobody will be going at all.

Imagine it - and sages have imagined far worse and lived to see their nightmares become reality. Old Trafford empty on a Saturday afternoon when Manchester United were supposed to be playing Liverpool. Seats rusting. Woods sprouting. Managers, chairman, directors and players in the doldrums. Bankruptcy. Perhaps a suicide. Developers moving in. Pitch and stands vanishing. Supermarkets, office blocks and multi-story car parks rising over the old playground of Duncan Edwards and George Best.

For Manchester United read Didcot Athletic, High Linton Rovers, or any club you like. Fantasy? Just you wait, as Eliza said to "Tory Tiggins".

In the bad of rugby union, the worst is already at work. If the professional circus comes to town, England will have difficulty in raising a team. The selectors will be driven to watching cars rather than players. Second XV players will find themselves turning out against Sutton and Epsom one week and Wales the next. In a frantic attempt to bolster finances, revive morale and

Calamitous

Dismissing, though it is to be an unrelieved Jeremiah, I have left to the end of one of the most calamitous years of 1984. If the worst should come to the worst, as I believe it will, I refer to the unrelieved disappearance of living sport from television and the newspapers. The populace will then have nothing to watch, read or discuss.

I weep for them. What will they do instead? They seem unlikely to switch on programmes about philosophy or start taking "The Times Literary Supplement". I suppose they will have to be content with a slightly bettered version of the 1966 World Cup final and with looking up yellowing old sports pages in public libraries.

In the words of the Noel Coward song, we can all look forward to despair.

'Foreign Legion' upsets French club officials

A wave of foreign players has invaded the French shores during the past two seasons. There should be nothing unusual in it, since rugby football is a touring game and players might decide to spend a season or two in another country after a tour; but the unprecedented magnitude has upset some club officials in France.

The French championship is highly competitive and the issue of imported players has led to bitter exchanges. Even the president of the French Federation, Albert Ferrasse, said that the regulations concerning the licensing of foreign players in France will have to be tightened.

The "foreign legion" comes from a variety of places, like the Ivory

Coast, Poland, Morocco, South Africa, New Zealand, Romania, England, Wales and Sri Lanka. Those from Romania and Poland are usually defectors who have settled in France for good but many from the West are simply recruited by some club presidents wanting to improve overall performance. At the top of the market are the big lock forwards, followed closely by kickers and scrum halves.

According to the licensing regulations of the French Federation, a foreign player wishing to play for a French club needs to be issued with a red, yellow or green licence. The green card is the most sought after since it allows the holder to play without restrictions.

Coast, Poland, Morocco, South Africa, New Zealand, Romania, England, Wales and Sri Lanka.

signed for Grenoble before the recent tour of the All Blacks when he was still, technically, uncapped.

Many clubs have exceeded their allowed quota of three foreign players. This can be achieved either after some of their players have become naturalized or by offering those who become redundant a free transfer. Carcassonne, who are struggling at the bottom of the third division, have transferred their Australian prop, Peter Hoy, to a junior club to accommodate two huge South African locks, Reitz and Hugo, who arrived recently. Their third foreigner is the New Zealander, McKean, at prop.

Marignac have recruited three South Africans without much

Unit Trust Prices - change on the week			
Unit Trust	Price	Change	% Change
1. Alliance Unit Trust	1.12	+0.01	+0.9%
2. British American Unit Trust	1.05	+0.02	+1.9%
3. British Overseas Unit Trust	1.08	+0.01	+0.9%
4. British World Unit Trust	1.03	+0.01	+0.9%
5. British World Fund	1.01	+0.01	+0.9%
6. British World Income	1.02	+0.01	+0.9%
7. British World Growth	1.04	+0.01	+0.9%
8. British World Equity	1.06	+0.01	+0.9%
9. British World Bond	1.07	+0.01	+0.9%
10. British World Dividend	1.08	+0.01	+0.9%
11. British World Income Fund	1.09	+0.01	+0.9%
12. British World Growth Fund	1.10	+0.01	+0.9%
13. British World Equity Fund	1.11	+0.01	+0.9%
14. British World Bond Fund	1.12	+0.01	+0.9%
15. British World Dividend Fund	1.13	+0.01	+0.9%
16. British World Income Fund	1.14	+0.01	+0.9%
17. British World Growth Fund	1.15	+0.01	+0.9%
18. British World Equity Fund	1.16	+0.01	+0.9%
19. British World Bond Fund	1.17	+0.01	+0.9%
20. British World Dividend Fund	1.18	+0.01	+0.9%
21. British World Income Fund	1.19	+0.01	+0.9%
22. British World Growth Fund	1.20	+0.01	+0.9%
23. British World Equity Fund	1.21	+0.01	+0.9%
24. British World Bond Fund	1.22	+0.01	+0.9%
25. British World Dividend Fund	1.23	+0.01	+0.9%
26. British World Income Fund	1.24	+0.01	+0.9%
27. British World Growth Fund	1.25	+0.01	+0.9%
28. British World Equity Fund	1.26	+0.01	+0.9%
29. British World Bond Fund	1.27	+0.01	+0.9%
30. British World Dividend Fund	1.28	+0.01	+0.9%
31. British World Income Fund	1.29	+0.01	+0.9%
32. British World Growth Fund	1.30	+0.01	+0.9%
33. British World Equity Fund	1.31	+0.01	+0.9%
34. British World Bond Fund	1.32	+0.01	+0.9%
35. British World Dividend Fund	1.33	+0.01	+0.9%
36. British World Income Fund	1.34	+0.01	+0.9%
37. British World Growth Fund	1.35	+0.01	+0.9%
38. British World Equity Fund	1.36	+0.01	+0.9%
39. British World Bond Fund	1.37	+0.01	+0.9%
40. British World Dividend Fund	1.38	+0.01	+0.9%
41. British World Income Fund	1.39	+0.01	+0.9%
42. British World Growth Fund	1.40	+0.01	+0.9%
43. British World Equity Fund	1.41	+0.01	+0.9%
44. British World Bond Fund	1.42	+0.01	+0.9%
45. British World Dividend Fund	1.43	+0.01	+0.9%
46. British World Income Fund	1.44	+0.01	+0.9%
47. British World Growth Fund	1.45	+0.01	+0.9%
48. British World Equity Fund	1.46	+0.01	+0.9%
49. British World Bond Fund	1.47	+0.01	+0.9%
50. British World Dividend Fund	1.48	+0.01	+0.9%
51. British World Income Fund	1.49	+0.01	+0.9%
52. British World Growth Fund	1.50	+0.01	+0.9%
53. British World Equity Fund	1.51	+0.01	+0.9%
54. British World Bond Fund	1.52	+0.01	+0.9%
55. British World Dividend Fund	1.53	+0.01	+0.9%
56. British World Income Fund	1.54	+0.01	+0.9%
57. British World Growth Fund	1.55	+0.01	+0.9%
58. British World Equity Fund	1.56	+0.01	+0.9%
59. British World Bond Fund	1.57	+0.01	+0.9%
60. British World Dividend Fund	1.58	+0.01	+0.9%
61. British World Income Fund	1.59	+0.01	+0.9%
62. British World Growth Fund	1.60	+0.01	+0.9%
63. British World Equity Fund	1.61	+0.01	+0.9%
64. British World Bond Fund	1.62	+0.01	+0.9%
65. British World Dividend Fund	1.63	+0.01	+0.9%
66. British World Income Fund	1.64	+0.01	+0.9%
67. British World Growth Fund	1.65	+0.01	+0.9%
68. British World Equity Fund	1.66	+0.01	+0.9%
69. British World Bond Fund	1.67	+0.01	+0.9%
70. British World Dividend Fund	1.68	+0.01	+0.9%
71. British World Income Fund	1.69	+0.01	+0.9%
72. British World Growth Fund	1.70	+0.01	+0.9%
73. British World Equity Fund	1.71	+0.01	+0.9%
74. British World Bond Fund	1.72	+0.01	+0.9%
75. British World Dividend Fund	1.73	+0.01	+0.9%
76. British World Income Fund	1.74	+0.01	+0.9%
77. British World Growth Fund	1.75	+0.01	+0.9%
78. British World Equity Fund	1.76	+0.01	+0.9%
79. British World Bond Fund	1.77	+0.01	+0.9%
80. British World Dividend Fund	1.78	+0.01	+0.9%
81. British World Income Fund	1.79	+0.01	+0.9%
82. British World Growth Fund	1.80	+0.01	+0.9%
83. British World Equity Fund	1.81	+0.01	+0.9%
84. British World Bond Fund	1.82	+0.01	+0.9%
85. British World Dividend Fund	1.83	+0.01	+0.9%
86. British World Income Fund	1.84	+0.01	+0.9%
87. British World Growth Fund	1.85	+0.01	+0.9%
88. British World Equity Fund	1.86	+0.01	+0.9%
89. British World Bond Fund	1.87	+0.01	+0.9%
90. British World Dividend Fund	1.88	+0.01	+0.9%
91. British World Income Fund	1.89	+0.01	+0.9%
92. British World Growth Fund	1.90	+0.01	+0.9%
93. British World Equity Fund	1.91	+0.01	+0.9%
94. British World Bond Fund	1.92	+0.01	+0.9%
95. British World Dividend Fund	1.93	+0.01	+0.9%
96. British World Income Fund	1.94	+0.01	+0.9%
97. British World Growth Fund	1.95	+0.01	+0.9%
98. British World Equity Fund	1.96	+0.01	+0.9%
99. British World Bond Fund	1.97	+0.01	+0.9%
100. British World Dividend Fund	1.98	+0.01	+0.9%

RACING: BREGAWN MISSES MANDARIN CHASE TO WAIT FOR BETTER GOING

Observe to be highspot of Francombe show

By Michael Phillips
Racing Correspondent

Observe should win the Tote Mandarin Steeplechase at Newbury today, says Michael Phillips. The horse, owned by the late Sir John Gigg, has been a regular winner at the track since he was trained by the late Sir John Gigg. He is a very good horse and will be a highspot of the day.

The distance of today's race will be a new one for him, but he is a very good horse and will be a highspot of the day. He is a very good horse and will be a highspot of the day.

Approaching the end of the year, the only member of the field who has won over today's course and distance, but he is getting a bit long in the tooth and I doubt him coping with a horse of Observe's age and class, especially as he will be carrying more than his long handicap weight.

Bright Dream and Canford Grange are also badly handicapped, but talking to Josh Gifford at Chepstow on Tuesday after Royal Ascot, he was well in the Welsh National. I got the impression that he expects Bright Dream to run well because of the way that he has been going with Royal Ascot.

Now that Andrew Turnell's horses have hit form with a vengeance, Bishop's Bow could be more of a threat to my selection than Straightaway, who has always given me the impression that he is at his best when racing over two and a half miles.

Gratification (1.0) and Spanish Place (3.0) are other possible winners for Francombe, who is riding as well as at any time in his illustrious career. Gratification has won all his



Burnt Oak takes the water jump ahead of Roman Bistre and King Ba Ba on his way to victory at Newbury

over two miles this season, but he has given the impression that he will do even better over further and this is precisely what will confront him in the Mandarin Hurdle. He will certainly benefit from this switch back to hurdling. Noble Hero, his stable companion, has not run this season, so he could be the one to watch with Schwegges Gold Trophy in mind.

At Newbury yesterday 28 days of misery ended for David Nicholson when he watched Burnt Oak win the Weyhill Handicap Steeplechase. For that was how long it had been since he had his last win.

Until then everything had been going swimmingly for the Duke - as Nicholas is known affectionately in racing circles - with 18 winners in November. Nicholas was so worried about the drought that he had blood tests taken from a number of horses, but they revealed nothing.

What Burnt Oak showed was

the sort of spring-heeled jumping and relentless gallop that will stand him in good stead at Liverpool one day. Whether that crack at the National comes next March or the year after remains to be decided.

Hazel Davies is ending the year in a blaze of glory. Yesterday he landed his third double this week by winning on com-mender and Alastor O Mavros. But what is one man's good luck is inevitably another's misfortune and in this instance Davies got the oppor-

unity on Alastor O Mavros only because Richard Rowe broke a collar bone falling heavily from Ryedale in the Ebor Park Novices Steeplechase at the beginning of the year.

Rowe missed winning the Newtown Novices Hurdle as well on Stray Shot, on whom Graham Bradley proved a stylish substitute. Mark Harrington had an even nastier fall in the first race on Ballycoul and he was taken to hospital with a broken leg.

Boreen Prince ready to atone

Two of the better fancied Champion Hurdle outsiders, Boreen Prince and Fane Ranger, take another on over the two and a half miles of the Morgiana Hurdle at Punchestown this afternoon (Our Irish Correspondent writes). When they recently met at Naas in the event in which Boreen Prince was beaten by Fane Ranger, the latter was in front of Boreen Prince. However, he subsequently made heavy weather of winning it

conditions hurdle at Naas, and in the belief that Boreen Prince did not produce his true running last time, he is fancied to reverse the form. This he would certainly do if he ran as well as when chasing home Gaye Brief in the Championship Hurdle.

At Fairhouse yesterday, Waving Diamonds, whose Cheltenham objective is the Sun Alliance Chase, landed the odds in the Farewell Novice Chase. Waving Diamonds was beaten by Blackthorn Prince at Lislick on Boxing Day.

Catterick command for Hill's Guard

By Michael Seely

There is a relatively moderate fare on offer at Catterick Bridge and Worcester on Tuesday. Most notably, the best bet is for Hill's Guard in the Dick Whittington Handicap Hurdle.

Andy Scott, the trainer, has not been named "The Wizard of Worcester" for nothing. At Worcester on Tuesday, Mossborough was backed down to 100-30 before winning by five lengths, and at Newcastle, earlier in the month, Hill Guard was the medium of a similarly successful gamble in another handicap. The five-year-old seems to be maintaining the improved form he showed when winning the race last spring, and Hill's Guard should prove too good for Ballydowry and Miss Love.

Two other likely winners are Mr Sought in the Scotch Corner Handicap at Catterick, and Clutterbuck, who runs in the second division of the Midland Novices Hurdle at Worcester. Mick Easterby has already won chases this week with B and K Emperor and Bally-Go and Mr Sought can carry on the good work by defying an old penalty for his recent self-inflicted victory.

Clutterbuck is Fred Winter's only runner at Worcester, and the five-year-old should be all the sharper for his recent outing when second to Zircon's Son at Towcester.

Michael Dickinson's decision to withdraw Bregawn from Monday's Course Cup at Cheltenham as well as from this afternoon's Mandarin Hurdle is a move dictated solely by the state of the going. "Bregawn is 100 per cent" the champion trainer said yesterday. "But don't forget he was placed up and ready to go at Kempton before I took him out because of the fast ground. I will run him as soon as we have had some more rain."

Midland racers, in particular, will be saddened to hear that William "Big" Bissill died at his home at Astock, in Nottingham, on Wednesday at the age of 75.

One of the great characters of steeplechasing, Mr Bissill was, until recently, a regular at the Cheltenham Festival. He was a member of the Welsh National, in 1956. No man had a keener sense of fun or a greater zest for living and Rip Bissill will be sorely missed by his countless friends.

Time for England to revise their thinking

By Sydney Friskin

After 12 months of unrest brought about by a conflict of interests, the new year dawns with a feeling of uncertainty for British horsemen. In three weeks time, at a meeting in Brussels, it will be made known whether Britain have been selected to take part in the Olympic Games at Los Angeles next July.

A British squad consisting of 13 players from England, two from Northern Ireland and one from Scotland, were to undergo training over four months of training under their manager, Roger Self, to play in a ten-nations tournament. They finished fourth, winning only two matches out of six. Mr Self considers the 3-2 victory over Malaysia as a point in favour of Britain but the 3-2 defeat by South Korea and the failure to beat any of the top three sides (Australia, Pakistan and India) are deterring factors.

Although the Hockey Association, the controllers of the game in England, are reviewing the scope and purpose of the Great Britain Men's Hockey Board's training, the Hockey Association should begin. The Hockey Association created an impasse by refusing to release the England players for training with the British squad until after the European championship in Amsterdam at the end of August.

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Saturday

THE TIMES SATURDAY DECEMBER 31 1983

Television and radio programmes
Edited by Peter Davalle

Sunday

BBC 1

- 8.35 **Inch High Private Eye:** American cartoon; 5.00 **Saturday Superstore:** includes a song from Howard Jones, Neil Harris in the Coffee Shop; David Essex and his latest single; and many New Year's Eve bargains. Plus **Wham**.
- 12.15 **Grandstand:** The line-up is: 12.20 Football Focus (soccer highlights of 1983); 12.45 **Headlines**.
- 12.55 **Newbury Racing:** the 1.00 race; 1.10 **Boxing:** the European Bantamweight Championship; 1.25 **Racing from Newbury:** the 1.30 race; 1.45 **Sports Round-up:** 1.55 **Newbury Racing:** the 2.00 **Tote Mandem Handicap**; Steeplechase; 2.10 **Basketball Preview:** with Kieran Prendiville; 2.25 **Newbury Racing:** the 2.30.
- 2.50 **Embrace:** Professional Championship, from Stoke on Trent; 3.20 **Basketball:** Phillips World Invitational Club Championships, from Crystal Palace; 3.50 **Half-time scores:** 3.55 **Darts** (cont'd); 4.15 **Basketball** (cont'd); 4.35 **Final Scores**.
- 5.05 **News:** with Moira Stuart, 5.15 **Sport:** And regional news bulletins.
- 5.20 **Jim'll Fix It:** New Year's Eve special for someone to share the same stretch of road; Torville and Dean (but not for skating purposes).
- 5.55 **The Little and Large Show:** Comedy and music, with guests Russell Grant, Roy Jay, Roy Wood and Status Quo.
- 6.30 **Film: Arabian Adventure (1979):** Arabian Nights-type fantasy, with Christopher Lee as the unrepentantly evil Caliph, hungry for power. Supporting cast includes M.O. Shea, Oliver Tobias, Micky Roney and Peter Cushing. Director: Kevin Connor.
- 8.05 **Best of British Comedy:** Clips from some of the best British Half-Hour, Dad's Army, Till Death Do Us Part, Porridge, and The Good Life, presented by Frank Muir.
- 8.55 **Bergamot:** Another dramatic episode in the life of a Jersey detective (John Nettles) Why he has to arrest the challenger in an important boxing match. Guest stars in tonight's episode: Oliver Cotton, Les Manning, Tony Osoke and Ewa Mottley.
- 9.50 **News:** read by Moira Stuart. And sports round-up. Plus weather forecast for the first day of 1984.
- 10.05 **Match of the Day:** The best of action from two First Division football matches played today. Also pools check.
- 10.45 **A Farewell Celebration of The Good Old Days:** The curtain at the City Varieties. Leads, rises and falls for the last time (on TV). Top of tonight's vaudeville bill is Frankie Vaughan.
- 11.45 **Across the Years:** Marian Foster and Eric Robson see the old Great Britain in Manchester, and Keith Chegwin chats with many local folk as the New Year is born.

TV-am

- 6.25 **Good Morning Britain:** with the Parkinsons (Mary and Michael). Pick of the Week, with Jen Barnett, at 6.30. News at 7.00 and 8.00. The Parkinsons present their New Year's Eve special, with guests and chat, from 7.00.
- 8.40 **Data Run:** The top video cassettes of 1983.
- 9.25 **E.T. and Friends:** Magical Movie Visitors: The strange things that have happened many a movie, with Robin Williams; 10.20 **Ten Hawks:** Puppets in space; 10.50 **Film: The Solid Gold Kidnapping (1974):** Made-for-TV the star about a double abduction of an American ambassador, and the President's special adviser. With Lee Majors, Elizabeth Ashley; 12.05 **Sport:**
- 12.15 **World of Sport:** The line-up is: 12.20 Darts (Final of the Foster's Draught British Matchplay); 12.45 **News** from 12.45; 12.50 **On the Ball:** a look back on the 1983 football scene; 1.20 **It'll Be Aight on the Day:** sporting "howlers" strung together by Denis Norden; 1.40 **Ice Hockey:** (Iverson Prize, from Moscow); Stock Car Racing; live coverage from Wimbledon Stadium; 2.30 **Pro Skate '83:** Spectacular ice-skating display from New York, with Robin Cousins, John Curry and other star skaters; 3.20 **Hot Rod Racing:** Wintertime Gold Cup, from Wimbledon Stadium; 3.45 **Half-time scores:** 4.00 **Wrestling:** 4.45 **Results**.
- 5.00 **News:** 5.05 **Pep Goes New Year:** the stars include Culture Club, Limahl, Style Council, Tracy Ullman.
- 6.05 **Game for a Laugh:** A compilation of highlights from the last series, assembled at a New Year's Eve party at the New York Hotel in New York.
- 7.00 **Punchlines:** Bernie Winters and Sally James partner tonight's two contestants.
- 7.35 **3-2-1:** Comedy game show, hosted by Ted Rogers, with a Garden of Eden theme. Guests include Norman Vaughan, Barbara Windsor, David Lloyd, Guyler and Valentine Dyal.
- 8.35 **Petula:** Musical show, with Petula Clark, Paul Jones, John Amis, Isla Blair, Eleanor Bron and Annette Holford at 8.35.
- 9.40 **Film: The Way We Were (1973):** Romantic drama, well written by Arthur Laurents, co-starring Barbra Streisand and Robert Redford (both in excellent form) as the university lovers whose relationship undergoes a dramatic change when their paths cross again after a lapse of some years. With Bradford Dillman, Lois Chiles and Viveca Lindfors. Directed by Michael Curtiz.
- 11.50 **The Hogmanay Show:** Boisterous entertainment, befitting the night, from the Scottish Television studios in Glasgow. With Andy Cameron, Kenneth McKellar and the Scottish Fiddle Orchestra (100-strong). Followed by Night Thoughts.



From Covent Garden - live: Kiri to Kanawa, Hermann Prey, Hildegard Heiche and Doris Soffel in Die Fledermaus (BBC2, 8.25pm).

BBC 2

- 2.10 **Film: The Pride and the Passion (1957):** Tremendously spectacular (but dramatically meagre) movie version of C.S. Forester's adventure yarn set in Spain during the Napoleonic war. Cary Grant is the British naval officer who throws in his lot with a guerrilla leader (Frank Sinatra) whose followers are hauling a monstrous cannon across Spain to put paid to the French, co-starring Sophia Loren. Directed by Stanley Kramer.
- 4.20 **Machines in Motion:** Penultimate lecture in Professor Leonard Maunders' series of Christmas addresses more classic titles from the 1920s to the early 1950s. Her guests include Rosemary Clooney and Dennis Lotis.
- 5.05 **Brookside:** two repeated episodes.
- 6.00 **Citizen 2000:** An investigation into the reasons why some mothers return to work not long after their babies are born, while others have decided not to be working mothers.
- 6.55 **News headlines.** Followed by: 7.00 **The Other Side of London:** Ron Moody (Fagin in *London*) Bar's famous musical) exchanges crime for a tourist's guide life. En route to well-known tourist spots, he becomes *Dracula*, *Shogun*, *Holmes*, *Richard III* and Henry Irving. And Fagin.
- 8.00 **Party at the Palace:** Not Buckingham Palace, but Camden Palace where the Black Theatre Co-operative put on a sort of dance and music entertainment. Artists include Victor Romano Evans, Judith Jacob, and Malcolm Frederick.
- 9.00 **Film: The Music Machine (1979):** Disco music starting Sunday and Sunday. Robert Boulton as the young couple who are determined to win a disco talent competition in face of some crooked competition.
- 10.40 **David Frost's End of the Year Special:** Frost, in his individualistic way, celebrates look back on the dying year. They include Denis Norden, Cive James, Alan Coren, John Wells, Diana Dors, Ken Livingstone, and Instant Sunshine.
- 12.10 **Final episode:** The return from New York of Phil Eason (Boland) brings new hope of family unity after many divisions. (r)
- 1.10 **Closetown.**

CHANNEL 4

- 1.50 **Film: The Lady with a Lamp (1951):** Anna Neale as yet another Great Britain. This time, she is Florence Nightingale, in Herbert Wixom's very respectable film about her pioneering nursing service in the Crimean war. With Michael Wilding, Fanny Aylmer and Gladys Young.
- 3.45 **Film: Sherlock X (1925):** Buster Keaton comedy, with the Great Stoneface as a cinema projectionist who imagines himself taking part in the detective thriller he is screening.
- 4.35 **Unforgettable Swindling:** Pat Phoenix (Coronation Street's Elsie Tanner) introduces more classic titles from the 1920s to the early 1950s. Her guests include Rosemary Clooney and Dennis Lotis.
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BBC 1

- 8.00 **Mr Benn:** for the toddlers; 8.15 **Sunday Workshop:** from Westcott House Chapel, Cambridge; 10.00 **Asian Magazine:** includes a flashback to India's World Cup victory; 10.30 **See Head for Feet:** with hearing problems; 10.55 **The Edinburgh Military Tattoo, 1983:** Highlights from the heart-hugging spectacle; 12.05 **From Tokyo to London:** Donny MacLeod interviews Barry Manilow (r); 12.50 **Cartoon**.
- 1.00 **Under the Blackpool Tower:** with Ken Dodd. The comedian gets to know the circus. The tigers' cage; 1.45 **News headlines**.
- 1.50 **Film: The Yellow Rolls Royce (1964):** Crime story, luxuriously mounted, about the three very different owners of a super car. Remarkable cast includes Rex Harrison, Shirley Bassey, Ingrid Bergman, Omar Sharif, Jeanne Moreau and Alan Del. Director: Anthony Asquith.
- 3.50 **Hot Shoe Show:** Dancing feet galore, including those of Wayne Sleep, an American dancer; David Copperfield, John Langford, Lesley Collier, Wayne Eagling and Paul Tomkinson.
- 4.40 **Aladdin and the Forty Thieves:** Many stars from the TV programme. The Arabian take part in this traditional pantomime. They include Floella Benjamin, Sarah Greene, Kenneth Connor, Johnny Morris (Widow Twankey), John Craven (Pasha), Kenneth Williams (as Mustapha Drik), Edward Brayshaw plays Abanazar.
- 5.35 **Richard Chamberlain:** The actor talks about his role in the TV serial version of *Colin's* McCullough's best-seller *The Thorn Birds* that begins on BBC1 next Sunday; 5.55 **News bulletin**.
- 6.05 **The Holiday Programme:** New series begins. From London to New York by Concordia: holidays in Ibiza; and travels around Tayside. Plus details of a holiday competition.
- 6.40 **Songs of Praise:** from St Cuthbert's Church, Edinburgh.
- 7.15 **The Two Ronnies:** The musical guest is Elaine Paige. Other guest performers: Patricia Brack, Patrick Troughton and April Walker.
- 8.05 **Film: Fame (1980):** The film that spawned the hugely successful TV series. Same plot: the antics of students and staff at the New York High School for the Performing Arts. Directed, with great vigour, by Alan Parker; 10.15 **News**.
- 10.25 **Everyman: Help to Pay:** A film about the Argentine evangelist Luis Palau, the self-styled "new Billy Graham" who came to London last year to "save souls". Peter France considers whether Palau's principles are really Christian.
- 11.05 **Men v Women:** Bernard Langer takes on Julie Ann. Langer is an American golfer who challenges at the Duke's Course at the Woburn Golf and Country Club.
- 11.55 **Sergeant Bilko:** Phil Silvers up to more tricks in the US Army (r); 12.20 **Weather forecast**.

TV-am

- 7.25 **Good Morning Britain:** The presenter is David Frost. At 7.25, the Archbishop of York presents *A Thought for a Sunday*.
- 7.30 **Rob-a-Dub-Tub:** Yehudi Menuhin reads *The King, the Cat and the Fiddle*; plus cartoons, the magician Philip Theodore, the showman-maker Alan Dart, and regulars including Dick and Dodo.
- 8.30 **Good Morning Britain:** David Frost with his New Year's Day guests. Ends at 9.25.
- 9.25 **Sing a New Song:** baptisms service from Malden Baptist Church, Kent; 10.30 **Film: Scum and the Magic Flute (1975):** Full-length cartoon; 11.50 **Survival Spectacular:** Stranded on South Georgia: Revised version of this remarkable wildlife film shot by Cindy Budenz and Alan Prince at the time of the Argentine invasion of the Falklands (r).
- 12.50 **Magic with the Stars:** A veritable feast of illusion, with such masters of the craft as David Copperfield, John Welles and Jaclyn Smith.
- 2.00 **Encounter:** Four Bars to the Bus Stop. How Peter Abrahamson, once a Church of England clergyman, has converted to the Demon Drink. He and his wife return to Madrid, where he experienced so much alcoholic despair.
- 2.30 **South Pacific (1958):** Mimi Foy, as American nurse Nellie Forbush, falling in love with a man of her own race, and falling for French plantation owner Rossano Brazzi. Great songs by Rodgers and Hammerstein.
- 5.10 **Sullivan:** Darts and general news.
- 5.40 **The Early Beatles:** The Famous Four live again in some rare archive film which covers the period 1962-1965. Includes highlights from their first live performance at the United States; 5.50 **News**.
- 6.40 **Mary O'Hara and Friends:** The "Friends" include George Fennell and the City of London Symphony.
- 7.15 **Bruce Forsyth's Play Year:** Cards Right. The Archers from Downton Abbey, the Wilsons from *Romford*, Essex.
- 7.45 **Agatha Christie's Partners in Crime:** Francesca Annis and James Warwick in *The Case of the Missing Lady*. With Rosemary Cooper and Ewan Hooper; 8.45 **News** from ITN.
- 9.00 **Film: Tom Horn (1980):** A quality western, starring the late Steve McQueen as the ex-Cavalry scout, hired to protect a group of cattle ranchers, but who later turns out to be a villain. With Linda Evans and Slim Pickens. Director: William W. Weller.
- 10.50 **Shenae Easton - Act One:** The singer sings some of her hits, in Los Angeles. She shares a song with Kenny Rogers. Other guests: Al Jarreau and Johnny Carson. Followed by: **Night Thoughts:** from Max Sinclair, assistant director, Christian Centre, Hildenborough Hill, Kent.



Eddie Cantor: he appears as the delivery boy turned slave in the 1938 Hollywood musical *Roman Scandal* (Channel 4, 10.45pm).

BBC 2

- 12.15 **In Name Only (1939):** Hollywood comedy. Cary Grant plays the man whom Kay Francis marries for his money. Then along comes a pretty widow (Carole Lombard) and there are complications. Directed by John Cromwell.
- 1.45 **Darts:** Live coverage of the Embassy World Professional Championship. Wilson, O'Dea and Gledhill are all in action today. Further coverage at 5.55, 9.30 and 2.00.
- 2.30 **Rugby Special:** London Welsh versus Leicester.
- 3.20 **Machines in Motion:** The last of Professor Leonard Maunders' series of Christmas addresses more classic titles from the 1920s to the early 1950s. Her guests include Rosemary Clooney and Dennis Lotis.
- 4.20 **International Basketball:** Phillips World Invitational Club Championships.
- 5.15 **Ski Sunday:** Ron Pickering reports on the excitement at Garmisch-Partenkirchen as men reach their themselves through the snow.
- 5.55 **World Darts:** further live coverage from Stoke-on-Trent.
- 6.45 **News Review:** Jan Leeming.
- 7.15 **Beyond 1984:** Part one of a two-part (part two is at 8.20) assessment of the prospects, financial and sociological, "facing Britain in the next 25 years." At 7.17, Dr John Easwell, Fellow in Economics at Trinity College, Cambridge, contemplates Britain's economic future. Then, at 7.45, Philip Hughes, chairman of Logica, discusses the technological battle and the allied subject of unemployment.
- 8.15 **News on Two.**
- 8.20 **Beyond 1984:** Part two. James Robertson, author of *The Same Alternative*, explains why he believes that the country is in the throes of transformation as fundamental as the Industrial Revolution 200 years ago. Then, at 8.45, Nick Ross chairs a study discussion.
- 9.30 **World Darts:** further live coverage of the Embassy World Professional Championship.
- 10.15 **Film: Murder by Decree (1979):** Holmes and Watson on the trail of Jack the Ripper. Co-starring Christopher Plummer and James Mason. With Susan Clark, Anthony Quayle, John Gielgud, Patrick Finlay and Donald Sutherland. Directed by Bob Clark.
- 12.00 **World Darts:** more from Stoke-on-Trent. Ends at 12.55am.

CHANNEL 4

- 2.20 **Meanwhile Gardens:** How three acres of derelict London wasteland became a thriving community park. Its future, though is now in doubt.
- 3.00 **Lampedusa of Salt:** The remarkable life, times and art of the 115-year-old Balinese artist Gusti Nyoman Lempad who won international acclaim.
- 4.00 **Film: Playtime (1967):** Jacques Tati, again playing Monsieur Hulot, chaotically at loose in a Paris seemingly filled with American tourists. It took three years to make (and, it must be admitted, it sometimes seems it takes that long to sit through). Inspired comments crop up occasionally, however.
- 6.15 **American Football:** Highlights from the "Wild Card" matches in both the American and National Conferences - the first round of the play-offs on the road at the "big one" at Tampa, Florida.
- 7.15 **The World at War:** The eleventh film of this 26-part series is called *Red Star* - the Soviet Union. The part is the 1941-1943 - the years of the terrible battles of Leningrad, Moscow, Stalingrad and Kursk.
- 8.15 **Tell the Truth:** "Spot the impostor" game, played by Beverly Anderson, Lynda Bellingham, Nigel Rees and William Rushton. With Game Garden in the MC's chair.
- 8.45 **Struggle:** The concluding episode of Peter Jenkins's political comedy series about a Left-dominated London borough council.
- 9.20 **First Love:** Secrets. A second chance to see Noella Smith's film about some boarding school girls who delve into the forbidden mysteries of Freemasonry and come up against consequences that they cannot cope with. Good performances by a clutch of young non-professionals, including Anna Campbell, James Lavelle, Peter Dinklage, Cockburn. Directed by Gavin Miller.
- 10.45 **Film: Roman Scandal (1938):** Comedy musical, with Eddie Cantor as the Mid-West delivery boy who dreams he is back in Ancient Rome as a slave. Among the Golden Girls on display is a very young Lucille Ball. Cantor's songs include his (of his time) like *Keep Young and Beautiful*. Directed by Frank Tuttle. Ends at 12.25.

Radio 4

- 6.25 **Shipping Forecast.**
- 6.30 **News:** Morning News.
- 6.50 **In Perspective:** with Rosemary Harris. 6.55 **Weather:** Travel; Programme News.
- 7.00 **News:** 7.10 **The Times:** 7.15 **On Your Mark:** 7.45 **In Perspective:** with Rosemary Harris. 7.55 **Weather:** Travel; Programme News.
- 8.00 **News:** 8.10 **The Times:** 8.15 **On Your Mark:** 8.45 **Breakaway:** Holiday, Travel and Leisure scene, including 8.57 **Weather:** Travel. 9.00 **News:** 9.05 **Marriage:** Signet, Ian and Talia David Mousa and his friendship with the eccentric Alexander Worley.
- 9.50 **Talking Politics:** Brave politicians take part in a quiz to see how much they really know about the Palace of Westminster.
- 10.30 **Joy to the World:** A Christmas celebration in words and music from the first Pick of the Year, and radio highlights from 1983, with Margaret Howard (see also 12.15pm on TV).
- 11.35 **From Our Own Correspondent:** BBC's own reports from around the world.
- 12.00 **News:** 12.05 **World Service:** 12.27 **The First Half Century:** Alastair Cooke's personal view of social life in Britain and the USA from 1900-1950, as reflected in popular music of the day (5) The First Half Century. 12.55 **Programme News.**
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- 2.35 **Medicine Now:** A report on the history of medical care.
- 3.05 **Widlife:** "Earth Stars" with Sarah Banfield and Derek Jones.
- 3.30 **Light in a Dark Place:** The story of Christine, adopted from her own account of her life. The Christine Watt Papers.
- 4.30 **Does He Talk Sugar?** Magazine for the disabled.
- 5.00 **The Sinking of the Schamhorst:** A documentary telling the story of the last ship to sink in the history of naval warfare (r).
- 5.35 **Edmund in Israel:** In the last of six talks, Edmund, British author, tells of his journey through the history of the modern Jewish state. 5.50 **Programme News.**

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- 5.00 **The Sinking of the Schamhorst:** A documentary telling the story of the last ship to sink in the history of naval warfare (r).
- 5.35 **Edmund in Israel:** In the last of six talks, Edmund, British author, tells of his journey through the history of the modern Jewish state. 5.50 **Programme News.**

Radio 4

- 6.25 **Shipping Forecast.**
- 6.30 **News:** Morning News.
- 6.50 **In Perspective:** with Rosemary Harris. 6.55 **Weather:** Travel; Programme News.
- 7.00 **News:** 7.10 **The Times:** 7.15 **On Your Mark:** 7.45 **In Perspective:** with Rosemary Harris. 7.55 **Weather:** Travel; Programme News.
- 8.00 **News:** 8.10 **The Times:** 8.15 **On Your Mark:** 8.45 **Breakaway:** Holiday, Travel and Leisure scene, including 8.57 **Weather:** Travel. 9.00 **News:** 9.05 **Marriage:** Signet, Ian and Talia David Mousa and his friendship with the eccentric Alexander Worley.
- 9.50 **Talking Politics:** Brave politicians take part in a quiz to see how much they really know about the Palace of Westminster.
- 10.30 **Joy to the World:** A Christmas celebration in words and music from the first Pick of the Year, and radio highlights from 1983, with Margaret Howard (see also 12.15pm on TV).
- 11.35 **From Our Own Correspondent:** BBC's own reports from around the world.
- 12.00 **News:** 12.05 **World Service:** 12.27 **The First Half Century:** Alastair Cooke's personal view of social life in Britain and the USA from 1900-1950, as reflected in popular music of the day (5) The First Half Century. 12.55 **Programme News.**
- 1.10 **News:** 1.15 **The Year Ahead:** A Radio News special in which News correspondents try to predict the main events of the year ahead. 1.55 **Programme News.**
- 2.00 **News:** 2.05 **Thirteen Minutes Theatre:** "The Winter Plan" by Barbara Chapman. Lydia Shere plays the old lady with a predictable love affair.
- 2.35 **Medicine Now:** A report on the history of medical care.
- 3.05 **Widlife:** "Earth Stars" with Sarah Banfield and Derek Jones.
- 3.30 **Light in a Dark Place:** The story of Christine, adopted from her own account of her life. The Christine Watt Papers.
- 4.30 **Does He Talk Sugar?** Magazine for the disabled.
- 5.00 **The Sinking of the Schamhorst:** A documentary telling the story of the last ship to sink in the history of naval warfare (r).
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- 2.00 **News:** 2.05 **Thirteen Minutes Theatre:</**

Trafalgar Square awaits a safe new year



Workmen were completing preparations in Trafalgar Square, London, yesterday for what the police hope will be a less troubled New Year's Eve than last year, when two women were killed in the crush and 193 people injured (Stewart Tindler writes).

An electronic display board and barricaded fountains will greet revellers arriving tonight to usher in 1984. As Big Ben tolls midnight the board, under the control of the police, will wish the crowd a happy New Year.

It will provide information and instructions to prevent congestion. Green boardings to thwart mid-night bathers were erected before Christmas.

Extra police will be available to control the crowd, which has reached 100,000 in past years. British Rail has laid on more late trains to stop last minute rush for home.

Letter from Moscow

Musical revolution from the Russian Jazzmen

A cold December Moscow day, with snow and sleet drifting across the grey city. In a bare and chilly suburban cinema, Muscovites are shown to their seats by dumpy ladies in woollen hats. The lights go down and first comes a newswreid in 1950s socialist realist style, about a steel foundry and chicken farming.

And then suddenly, the screen explodes with colour, exuberance - and music. *Jazzmen* (in Russian *My iz Dehazza*, or "We are from Jazz"), is the exhilarating, lovingly-filmed story of the first jazzband in Russia, formed on Odessa, on the Black Sea, in the 1920s.

Partly based on the lives of Russian jazz pioneers (some of whom lived to see jazz flourish, be suppressed and revive), the film sweeps the viewer along on an irresistible stream of music and fun.

The young hero - played with engaging impudence by Igor Sklyar - is first seen trying out piano rags on an examination panel at the music institute where he is a student.

They accuse him of being an "agent of imperialism". Undaunted, he teams up with a pair of itinerant musicians (a kind of Russian Laurel and Hardy act) and a seedy saxophonist they meet in jail after a riotous party.

From then on, the band, held together by humour, a kindred spirit and a mission, an love of jazz, goes from dizzy success (suits in luxury hotels) to dismal failure (down and out on the streets) in their efforts to have jazz accepted in the young Soviet republic.

Jazzmen, directed by Karen

Shakhnazarov, is shot through with wit and enthusiasm and Moscow audiences find the band's antics hilarious as they try to prove that jazz is not a bourgeois art-form but "revolutionary" and therefore acceptable in a proletarian culture.

The real history of the jazz pioneers was not in the least funny, since the accusations of "imperialism" which sound so preposterous today were used to persecute musicians and artists in the terrible days of the Stalin terror (none of which is even hinted at in the version of *Jazzmen* passed by the censor).

But the film has seized the Russian imagination because it harks back to a "golden age," the 1920s, when there was colour and joy.

For similar reasons, the Anglo-Russian *Anna Pavlova* is proving a popular success.

The film, directed by the Moldavian director Emil Lotianov, depicts the life of the great ballerina from her first steps at the imperial ballet school in St Petersburg to her death in Europe on one of her many strenuous tours.

Soviet critics have panned the film as "superficial" and "travesty," pointing out (correctly) that the star of the film, Galina Belyaeva, is too lightweight and inexperienced to play the demanding role of Pavlova. *Sovetskaya Rossiya* said that Miss Belyaeva - who happens to be the director's wife - gave a very unromantic portrayal of Pavlova "devoid of spiritual content or even interest."

What has really upset officials, however, is that in Pavlova the Russian revol-

utions of 1905 and 1917 are seen as marginal. While imperial Russia appears sparklingly idyllic.

The sun always shines in St Petersburg, a city filled with gaiety and plenty. The revolution only intrudes when Pavlova's carriage is held up by a bloody demonstration on the way to the theatre.

At two and a half hours the film is an hour too long and some of the actors - including James Fox, who plays Anna's lover and manager - look distinctly uncomfortable. The exception is Bruce Forsyth who gives a splendid cameo performance and then funnier dubbed into Russian.

Most of the ideas put up by the British side of the production team seem to have been jettisoned in favour of an extravagant and unconvincing vehicle for Miss Belyaeva. Diaghilev and Nijinsky merely come across as hysterical.

But for Russians, this is beside the point, just as the way *Jazzmen* glosses over Stalinism is forgivable. Like *Jazzmen*, *Pavlova* fills the screen with colour and excitement, conjuring up a Russia peopled by outstanding individuals against the blackcloth of a spontaneous, sparkling Russia long vanished.

Small wonder that Muscovites are queuing up to see both films in preference to standard Soviet cinema offerings such as *Hot Summer in Kabul*, which depicts a positive Soviet hero giving selfless fraternal aid to the Afghan people in their struggle against world imperialism.

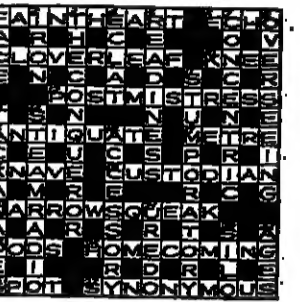
Richard Owen

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Solution of Puzzle No 16,318



Solution of Puzzle No 16,322



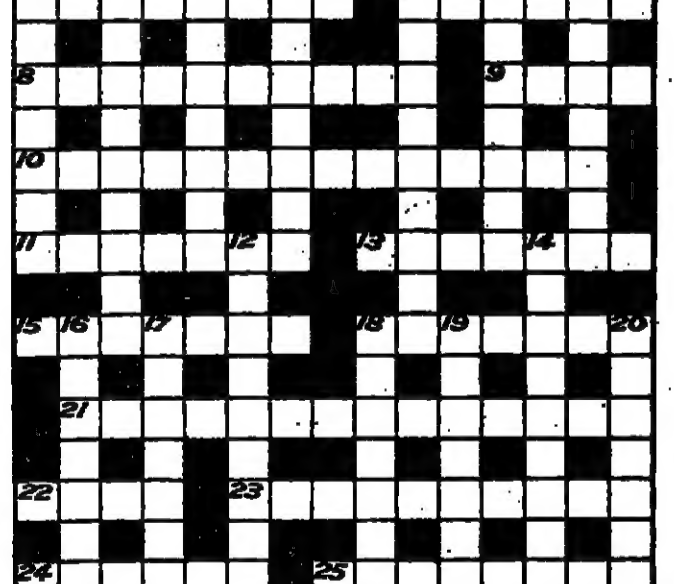
The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,323

A prize of The Times Atlas of the World (comprehensive edition) will be given for the first three correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, 12 Collyer Street, London WC9 9JY. The winners and solutions will be published next Saturday.

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: Mr. E. A. Side, 9 Ayote Close, Gloucester, GL4 9QL; Mr. Julian Leveson, 36 West Side, Hendon, London, NW4 4XB; Miss E. M. Reader, 8 Middlepark Drive, South Cave, N. Humberside, HU15 2AT.

Name: _____

Address: _____



- ACROSS**
- 1 Preserve ship for defence of Jersey and Guernsey (4-4).
 - 5 Craft of one making effort to draw? (6).
 - 8 Low hull on boundary may come from a small arm (3-7).
 - 9 Captain has backing of none of the crew (4).
 - 10 Fellow fighting - like Lion and Unicorn? (8-3-4).
 - 11 Understatement from T. S. Eliot, oddly (7).
 - 12 Second discussant also careful follower of game (7).
 - 15 Is it a very different sort? (7).
 - 18 Main course (3-4).
 - 21 No togetherness on the boards on this play (8,6).
 - 22 Constellation, we hear, identified by Romans as planet (4).
 - 23 Act with editor, right to alter this column (5,5).
 - 24 House of Lords so to speak (6).
 - 25 Swagging by, a satyr at heart (8).
- DOWN**
- 1 New US claim in South Pacific, say (7).
 - 2 It shows fair's fair, so to speak (9).
 - 3 From memory, near centre (2,5).
 - 4 One of the partners of majority share-holder (7).
 - 5 Glasses held some distance from eyes (9).
 - 6 C. viare wasted on this officer? (4).
 - 7 Many, in a sense, arranged like this (2,5).
 - 12 Consider what the host should do (9).
 - 14 Jowett is well aware of all this (9).
 - 16 Country, alas, not in antipodes (7).
 - 17 One takes pawn 7 for French, stalemate (7).
 - 18 This constable may be opposed to it (7).
 - 19 Athletic women - Brazilian runner second (7).
 - 20 Level of the French sergeant? Hardy fellow (7).

Today's events

Last chance to see
The Second Bombing, by Mulheim-Freibelt, Fruitmarket Gallery, 29 Market Street, Edinburgh; Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30 (ends today).

Sculpture's Dance Southampton Art Gallery, Civic Centre, Southampton; Sat 10 to 4 (ends today).

Fishing Snacks, a Kent County Museum Service travelling exhibition, Tunbridge Wells Art Gallery, Civic Centre, Tunbridge Wells; Sat 9.30 to 5 (ends today).

Captains of Commerce New Irish Ceramic Toss Carr, retrospective; Aspects of Africa: Fifty Years of Civil Engineering in Northern Ireland, all exhibitions at Ulster Museum, N. Botanic Gardens, Belfast; Sat 1 to 5 (all end today).

The Colman Collection of Silver Mustard Rots, Victoria Art Gallery, Bridge Street, Bath; (ends today).

Landscapes by Ray Howard-Jones; Carmarthen Museum, Aberystwyth, Wales; Mon to Sat 10.40 (ends today).

Exhibitions in progress
That's Shell, That is - exhibition of advertising material; Aberdeen Art Galleries, School Hill, Aberdeen; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Thurs 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (ends Jan 7).

Textile Designs and Drawings by Janet Hunter, Atkinson Gallery, Lord Street, Southport; Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Thurs and Sat 10 to 1, closed Sun (ends Jan 14).

Christmas exhibition of paintings by Falmouth Schoolchildren, Falmouth Art Gallery, Municipal Offices, Falmouth, Cornwall; Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 10 to 1 and 2 to 5, closed Sun and until Mon (ends Jan 6).

Exhibitions of Alternative Technology Dorset County Museum, High Street West, Dorchester, Dorset; Fri 10 to 5, Sat 10 to 1 and 2 to 5, closed Sun (ends Jan 28).

Tomorrow

March and waltz into 1984 with the Bournemouth Sinfonietta and Woodfalls Band, Winter Gardens, Bournemouth, 7.

The Magic of Vienna, concert by BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra, St. David's Hall, Cardiff, 7.30.

General
Antiques Fair, Winter Gardens, Weston-super-Mare, 10.30 to 4.30.

Carol Services
The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, St. Ann's Church, Manchester, 6.30.

Exhibitions in progress
Centre 2, Market Street, Edinburgh; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, closed Sun (ends Jan 28).

Sainsbury's Images for Today Winners of competition for British artists, Cartwright Hall, Lister Park, Bradford; Tues to Sun 10 to 5, closed Mon (ends Jan 8).

Homes - an exhibition of Victorian Home Life, Portsmouth City Museum and Art Gallery, Museum Road, Old Portsmouth; Mon to Sun 10.30 to 5.30 (ends Jan 26).

In the garden

Check any fruits, vegetables, bulbs, corns or tubers in store and remove any showing signs of rot. If daffodils show signs of shrivelling remove them by putting them in a bucket of tepid water indoors for 24 hours. Check that recent gales have not loosened the soil round young trees or shrubs. If so, re-secure them firmly again. Also check the securing ties to stakes or climbers to walls and renew if necessary.

If you have a pool with fish, float a rubber ball or a piece of wood on the surface. If the pool freezes, pour boiling water over the ball or wood. Then siphon or bale out water to leave a gap of an inch or so between the ice and the water and lay a sack over the hole. If this is not done the water will freeze over again immediately. Small floating electrical pool heaters are available which will keep a small area free from ice to allow fish to breathe.

The papers

The Daily Express quotes the Prime Minister, that Britain's revival is only beginning. "We're a country of the future," it says that Britain entered the year in far better shape than economic forecasters prophesied twelve months ago. Inflation has been kept at a low level, thought only zero inflation would be wholly acceptable. The economy is beginning to pick up. Britain's growth rate is well above average. "We are among the leaders in the West's recovery," it argues, but says that Mrs Thatcher and her ministers cannot do this alone. "Employers must be enterprising. Above all, unions must be realistic."

But the paper says that to help the process towards prosperity, the Government must remove artificial restraints on the jobs market; cut state spending; reduce taxes and leave more money to firms and individuals.

The pound

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	1.68	1.38
Austria Sch	29.00	27.40
Belgium Fr	84.50	80.50
Canada \$	1.56	1.29
Denmark Kr	14.80	14.10
Finland Mk	8.74	8.34
France Fr	12.40	11.90
Germany DM	6.88	6.59
Greece Dr	169.00	155.00
Hongkong \$	11.50	10.90
Ireland Pt	1.318	1.269
Italy Lira	345.00	335.00
Japan Yen	353.00	343.00
Netherlands Gld	4.66	4.37
Norway Kr	11.60	11.00
Portugal Esc	199.00	188.00
South Africa Rd	1.22	1.19
Spain Ptas	235.00	225.00
Sweden Kr	12.06	11.46
Switzerland Fr	3.28	3.11
USA \$	1.49	1.44
Yugoslavia Dnr	222.00	208.00

Rates for gold denominated bank notes only, as supplied by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency issues.

Retail Price Index: 341.9.
London: The FT index closed up 3.2 at 775.7.

Reads

London and South-East: West-bound carriageway of North Circular Road reduced to one lane at junction with Chiswick Green Road, from Jan. One lane closed in Wigmore Street, Marylebone, A249; Automatic signals on Maidstone/Stirling Road, no diversion.

Midlands: Lane closures on A14 Huntingdon by-pass. Traffic signals at A46 Belper, Derbyshire, A61; Traffic signals controlling traffic at Clay Cross, Derbyshire.

Wales and West: A417: Delays, diversions in St Oswalds Road (old A40), Gloucester. A483: Temporary lights and lane delays in Wind Street, Ammanford. A35: Single-lane traffic controlled by temporary signals of Ammanford-Henllys road between Kilmington-Loughwood, Devon.

North: A575: Egerton Street in Farnworth closed at Junction with Gladstone Road, diversions. A6118: Roadworks alongside existing carriageway on Leeds Southern ring road; delays. A6: Sewer cleaning work along south-bound carriageway of Stockport Road, Greater Manchester, between 08.00 and 15.30 hours.

South: A85: Single-lane traffic controlled by lights, Iwerstow. A86: Interim traffic control in Drip Road at Larnaca. A87: Interim traffic control in Causeway Road, Stirling. A82: Single-lane traffic controlled by lights in Iwerstow.

Information supplied by AA.

Anniversaries

Births: Charles Edward Stuart, "Bonnie Prince Charlie", the Young Pretender, Rome, 1720; Giovanni Pascoli, poet, San Mauro di Romagna, Italy, 1855; Henri Matisse, painter, Le Cateau, Picardy, France, 1869; Deane J. Farnsworth, first Astronomer Royal, Greenwich, 1719; Gustave Courbet, painter, La Tour-de-Pell, Switzerland, 1817.

Deaths: Edmund Burke (new style Jan 12), Dublin, 1795; Maria Edgeworth, writer, Blackborough, Oxfordshire, 1767; Sir James Fraser, anthropologist, Glasgow, 1854; Henry Handel Richardson (Ethel E. L. Richards), novelist, author of the trilogy, *The Fortunes of Richard Muldron*, Melbourne, 1870; E. M. Forster, London, 1879; Deane J. Farnsworth, dramatist, London, 1719; Johannes Christen Bach, youngest son of Johann Sebastian, London, 1782; Sir Edward Lutyens, architect, London, 1944. The Times, under the title of *The Daily Universal Register* was founded 1725; the change of title was made on January 1, 1788. Britain entered the EEC, 1973.

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Weather

London, SE, central S, E, SW England, East Angles, E, W Midlands, Channel Islands, S, W, dry, bright or sunny periods; wind SW, moderate; max temp 10-12°C (50-54°F).

N. Wales, NW, central N, England: Mostly dry, rather cloudy; wind SW fresh or strong; max temp 10°C (50°F).

Later: S, central S, E, SW England, Scotland, Glasgow, Argyle, N. Ireland: Mostly cloudy; outbreaks of rain or drizzle; wind SW fresh or strong; max temp 9°C (48°F).

NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee, Aberdeen, Belfast: Mostly cloudy; outbreaks of rain, heavy at times; wind SW strong to gale, severe gusts; max temp 7-8°C (45-46°F).

Outlook for tomorrow: Changeable with rain or showers in many areas but mainly dry in S. England; cold in N.

SEA PASSAGE: S North Sea strong drift of Dover Wind fresh or strong; perhaps increasing gale at times; sea mainly rough-English Channel (E) heavy; light or moderate backing SW wind; sea moderate; S, W, strong to gale; sea rough or very rough.

	Sun 31st	Sun 31st
	8.00 am	4.51 pm
Sun 31st	6.00 am	4.02 pm
Mon 1st	6.35 am	2.28 pm

New Moon: January 3.

Lighting-up time

TOMORROW
London 4.28 pm to 7.28 am
Edinburgh 4.12 pm to 6.14 am
Manchester 4.28 pm to 7.55 am
Preston 5.00 pm to 7.55 am

Around Britain

	Sun 31st	Sun 31st
	8.00 am	4.51 pm
Sun 31st	6.00 am	4.02 pm
Mon 1st	6.35 am	2.28 pm



Yesterday	
Temperature	at various places
London	11.2
Birmingham	10.5
Manchester	10.0
Cardiff	9.5
Glasgow	8.5

Highest and lowest	
Temperature	at various places
London	11.2
Birmingham	10.5
Manchester	10.0
Cardiff	9.5
Glasgow	8.5

London	
Temperature	at various places
London	11.2
Birmingham	10.5
Manchester	10.0
Cardiff	9.5
Glasgow	8.5

High tides	
Time	Place
11.22	London Bridge
11.22	Aberdeen
11.22	Cardiff
11.22	Glasgow

Low tides	
Time	Place
5.00	London Bridge
5.00	Aberdeen
5.00	Cardiff
5.00	Glasgow

Aberdeen	
Temperature	at various places
Aberdeen	11.2
Birmingham	10.5
Manchester	10.0
Cardiff	9.5
Glasgow	8.5

Birmingham	
Temperature	at various places
Birmingham	10.5
London	11.2
Manchester	10.0
Cardiff	9.5
Glasgow	8.5

Cardiff	
Temperature	at various places
Cardiff	9.5
London	11.2
Manchester	10.0
Aberdeen	11.2
Glasgow	8.5

Glasgow	
Temperature	at various places
Glasgow	8.5
London	11.2
Manchester	10.0
Cardiff	9.5
Aberdeen	11.2

Manchester	
Temperature	at various places
Manchester	10.0
London	11.2
Cardiff	9.5
Glasgow	8.5
Aberdeen	11.2

Cardiff	
Temperature	at various places
Cardiff	9.5
London	11.2
Manchester	10.0
Aberdeen	11.2
Glasgow	8.5

Aberdeen	
Temperature	at various places
Aberdeen	11.2
London	11.2
Manchester	10.0
Cardiff	9.5
Glasgow	8.5

BELL'S SCOTCH WHISKY